

Electrical Safety Checklist: Panel, Outlets, and Cords

Blank copy

Property

WALK DATE

WALKED BY

PROPERTY ADDRESS

OCCUPANCY

SERVICE PANEL LOCATION

MAIN DISCONNECT AMPERAGE IF LABELED

VISIBLE WIRING TYPE IF YOU CAN SEE IT

☐ Young children live in or visit the home

☐ Owner or agent present

Panel and cover

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Panel cover or door is in place, closed, and not hanging open	☐	☐	☐	
Cover fasteners you can see are present; no sharp missing-screw holes left open	☐	☐	☐	
Unused breaker slots and knockouts you can see are filled or blanked	☐	☐	☐	
No water, rust, or damp staining on the panel cabinet or the wall around it	☐	☐	☐	
No burning or rubbery smell, scorch, or buzzing at the panel	☐	☐	☐	
You can reach the panel and the main disconnect without moving stored goods	☐	☐	☐	
A circuit directory is present on or next to the panel	☐	☐	☐	
If the house uses fuses, replacements match the labeled size, not a larger coin or fuse	☐	☐	☐	
No pattern of frequent fuse blows or breaker trips that is being ignored	☐	☐	☐	

GFCI and AFCI

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Bathroom receptacles have GFCI protection that you can identify	☐	☐	☐	
Kitchen receptacles have GFCI protection that you can identify	☐	☐	☐	
Garage receptacles have GFCI protection that you can identify	☐	☐	☐	
Basement receptacles have GFCI protection that you can identify	☐	☐	☐	
Receptacles at a laundry, utility tub, or wet-bar sink have GFCI protection	☐	☐	☐	
Outdoor receptacles have GFCI protection	☐	☐	☐	

Crawl-space receptacles, if any, have GFCI protection	☐	☐	☐	_____
Each GFCI you found was tested this visit: TEST cuts power, RESET restores it	☐	☐	☐	_____
AFCI breakers or receptacles, if present, were tested this visit with the TEST button	☐	☐	☐	_____
GFCI and AFCI TEST buttons are reachable, not hidden behind appliances	☐	☐	☐	_____

Outlets, switches, and water

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Every outlet and switch you checked has a faceplate covering the wiring	☐	☐	☐	_____
Outlets and switches are cool to the touch during this walk	☐	☐	☐	_____
Plugs fit snugly in the outlets you used or tested	☐	☐	☐	_____
Outlets and switches you tried work: no dead half, flicker, or spark	☐	☐	☐	_____
Unused outlets have safety covers if young children live in or visit	☐	☐	☐	_____
Three-prong plugs still have the ground pin; adapters are bonded if used	☐	☐	☐	_____
No standing water, leaks, or wet counters at indoor outlets, power strips, or cords	☐	☐	☐	_____
Kitchen countertop appliances sit away from the sink, or they are on GFCI	☐	☐	☐	_____
Bathroom small appliances are unplugged when not in use and kept away from water	☐	☐	☐	_____
No tingle or shock from any appliance, faucet, or the panel cabinet	☐	☐	☐	_____

Cords and extension-cord traps

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Lamp, appliance, and extension cords are not frayed, cracked, or cut	☐	☐	☐	_____
Cords are not run across doorways or where they will be stepped on	☐	☐	☐	_____
No cord is under a rug, carpet, or furniture	☐	☐	☐	_____
Cords are not nailed, stapled, or tightly wrapped around an object	☐	☐	☐	_____
Extension cords are not used as permanent house wiring	☐	☐	☐	_____
Major appliances plug into a wall receptacle, not an extension cord or plug strip	☐	☐	☐	_____
No extension cord, plug, or outlet feels warm while in use	☐	☐	☐	_____
Only one heat-producing appliance is plugged into a receptacle at a time	☐	☐	☐	_____
Unused slots on indoor extension cords have safety covers if children are present	☐	☐	☐	_____

Lamps and lighting

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
------	-----	----	-----	-------

Each bulb is at or below the wattage marked on the fixture	☐	☐	☐	_____
Hot bulbs and shades are not against cloth, paper, or bedding	☐	☐	☐	_____
Portable lamps sit stable and are not used as a substitute for house wiring	☐	☐	☐	_____
TVs, computers, and similar equipment have room for air to circulate	☐	☐	☐	_____
Electric blankets, if used, are flat, undamaged, and not covered while on	☐	☐	☐	_____

Space heaters

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Each portable heater has a mark from a nationally recognized testing lab (UL, ETL, or CSA)	☐	☐	☐	_____
Each heater sits at least 3 feet from drapes, furniture, bedding, paper, and clothes	☐	☐	☐	_____
Each electric space heater plugs directly into a wall outlet, not an extension cord or power strip	☐	☐	☐	_____
Each heater is on a stable, level surface out of traffic	☐	☐	☐	_____
Heaters are turned off when people sleep or leave the room	☐	☐	☐	_____
No portable heater is used in a bathroom, or it is on a GFCI if one is used	☐	☐	☐	_____
The heater cord is not under a rug, and the plug and outlet stay cool	☐	☐	☐	_____

Outdoor receptacles and tools

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
Each outdoor outlet has a weatherproof cover, kept closed when nothing is plugged in	☐	☐	☐	_____
A weatherproof-while-in-use cover is used if a cord stays plugged in during wet weather	☐	☐	☐	_____
Extension cords used outdoors are marked for outdoor use	☐	☐	☐	_____
Outdoor 3-prong tools use 3-prong outdoor extension cords, not a 2-wire adapter	☐	☐	☐	_____
Corded garden tools have undamaged cords and are not used in ponds or standing water	☐	☐	☐	_____
Electrical equipment at a pool, spa, or hot tub stays dry and is on working GFCI	☐	☐	☐	_____

Smoke and CO alarms

Item	Yes	No	N/A	Notes
A working smoke alarm is on every level, including the basement	☐	☐	☐	_____
A working smoke alarm is inside each bedroom	☐	☐	☐	_____
A working smoke alarm is outside each sleeping area	☐	☐	☐	_____
Smoke alarms were tested this month with the test button	☐	☐	☐	_____
Smoke alarms you can date are not more than 10 years past the manufacture date	☐	☐	☐	_____

CO alarms are on every level and outside sleeping areas

☐☐☐

CO alarms were tested this month per the manufacturer instructions

☐☐☐

Findings and sign-off

FINDINGS

ACTION

WALKER SIGNATURE

OWNER OR AGENT SIGNATURE

TIME SIGNED

Reference only. Verify against local codes, a licensed inspector or a qualified contractor.