

# CHECKLISTS TO KEEP YOU ORGANIZED

# **Residential Inspection Checklists**

When performing an electrical inspection in a home, it's important to focus on everything from general safety measures to specific components like wiring, outlets, and appliances. We designed seven different checklists to help you complete thorough inspections—and they're all rolled into one handy PDF.

#### 1. General safety and compliance

- Technicians are wearing insulated gloves, flame-resistant clothing, and safety glasses.
- □ PPE is in good condition and rated for the voltage at hand.
- □ Hard hats and hearing protection are worn in the appropriate environment.
- Technicians are trained in arc flash safety protocols and proper signage is displayed.
- ☐ Technicians are using arc-rated PPE and tools when working near energized components.
- Outlets, panels, and wiring follow National Electrical Code (NEC) guidelines for installation and safety.
- Circuits are properly labeled, and systems are grounded according to NEC standards.
- □ Circuit breakers and fuses are appropriately rated for the connected loads.
- □ Inspection reports are complete, accurate, and stored securely for future reference.
- □ All necessary permits and compliance documents are available and up to date.
- □ Any repairs, upgrades, or deviations from standard procedures are noted.



#### 2. Wires and outlets

- Cords are routed away from walkways to prevent tripping hazards.
- □ Wires have intact insulation and no exposed conductors.
- □ Wires are housed in conduits or raceways where necessary to prevent damage.
- □ Outlets and switches operate correctly and supply power as expected.
- Use a circuit tester to identify issues like reversed polarity or open grounds.
- Feel outlets for excessive heat, which could indicate loose connections or overloading.
- Check for GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) protection in wet areas like kitchens and bathrooms.
- □ There are no burn marks, cracks, or discoloration on outlets and switches.
- ☐ There are no loose connections or missing screws on outlet plates.
- □ Cords aren't frayed or pinched.
- □ No cords are running under carpets or rugs.
- Cords are routed away from walkways to prevent tripping hazards.

## 3. Lighting

- □ Bulbs match the recommended wattage for each fixture to avoid overheating.
- □ Non-IC-rated fixtures are kept clear of insulation.
- Dimmer switches operate smoothly without the lights buzzing or flickering.
- □ There are no loose or faulty connections that may cause flickering.
- Light fixtures have no damage, rust, or loose components.
- □ Suggest LED upgrades for improved energy efficiency and longevity.

## 4. Electrical panel

- □ The panel is labeled, including an accurate circuit directory.
- □ There are no signs of corrosion, damage, or rust on the panel.
- □ Check the panel temperature to detect overheating or potential overloads.
- □ Test each breaker to confirm it trips properly and resets without any issues.
- □ Look for breakers that frequently trip or show signs of wear.
- ☐ If double-tapped breakers are present, those need to be removed as they're often not permitted in homes.
- ☐ There's a whole-house surge protector or point-of-use protector. Recommend adding surge protection if none is present.
- Compare the panel's rated capacity to the current electrical load to avoid overloading.
- □ Identify panels nearing their limit and recommend upgrades.



## 5. Appliances

- □ High-power appliances use heavy-duty plugs.
- □ Appliances operate properly.
- □ Appliances don't have any damaged cords or components.
- □ There are no signs of overheating, such as scorch marks near plugs.
- □ Major appliances like air conditioners are plugged directly into an outlet rather than into an extension cord. Some appliances (like refrigerators) may, however, use a special appliance extension cord.
- Remind homeowners not to yank cords from the outlets, but instead hold on to the plugs directly.

## 6. Electrical fire prevention

- □ A class C fire extinguisher rated for electrical fires is easily accessible.
- □ Test all detectors to confirm they sound an alarm. Replace batteries if needed.
- Detectors are installed in key areas like hallways and kitchens.
- □ Flammable items are stored away from appliances and outlets.
- Check for AFCI (Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter) protection, which is required in many areas of modern homes for fire prevention.

#### 7. Outdoor electrical components

- Outdoor fixtures and outlets have weatherproof covers and seals.
- □ All outdoor outlets have GFCI protection.
- Outdoor equipment like landscape lighting and pool pumps have proper grounding.
- ☐ There are no signs of exposure or wear on outdoor wiring.
- □ Outdoor connections are secure and protected from the elements.

