FREE HOMEOWNER GUIDE

Electrical safety checklist for Portland homeowners

Why this matters

Electrical problems often start small. Many homeowners don't realize their electrical system may already be showing warning signs. Small issues like flickering lights, tripping breakers, or overloaded outlets can sometimes indicate larger electrical problems. This checklist helps you quickly identify some of the most common electrical safety issues found in homes around Portland.

- [ ] Overloaded circuits
- [ ] Outdated electrical panels
- [ ] Unsafe outlets
- [ ] Warning signs of dangerous wiring
- [ ] Potential fire hazards

Who this is for

This checklist is especially helpful if you own an older home, recently bought a house, or are planning electrical upgrades.

- [ ] You own a home built before 1995
- [ ] You recently purchased a house
- [ ] You plan to install an EV charger
- [ ] You are remodeling your home
- [ ] You want to better understand your electrical system

About Smiley Electric

Smiley Electric helps homeowners across Portland, Beaverton, and Hillsboro with safe and professional electrical work, based on the real issues we see in homes across the Portland area. Our licensed electricians regularly help homeowners with panel upgrades, EV charger installations, whole-home surge protection, wiring upgrades, and electrical safety inspections.

Frequently asked questions

What does the electrical safety checklist cover?

It helps you check for overloaded circuits, outdated electrical panels, unsafe outlets, warning signs of dangerous wiring, and potential fire hazards commonly found in Portland-area homes.

Who is this checklist for?

It's especially helpful if you own a home built before 1995, recently purchased a house, plan to install an EV charger, are remodeling, or simply want to better understand your electrical system.

What should I do if my home shows warning signs?

If you notice overloaded circuits, an outdated panel, unsafe outlets, or any potential fire hazard, schedule a professional electrical evaluation. Our licensed electricians can inspect your system and recommend only what is necessary.

Sources

1. Electrical Safety: Checklist, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). https://content.nfpa.org/-/media/project/storefront/catalog/files/home-fire-safety/electrical/electrical_safety_checklist.pdf
2. Appliance and Electrical Fire Safety, U.S. Fire Administration. https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/home-fires/prevent-fires/appliance-and-electrical/
3. Home Electrical Fires, Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI). https://www.esfi.org/home-electrical-fires/

> **Need a licensed electrician in the Portland area?**
> Call Smiley Electric at (503) 484-7556 (Mon–Sat, 7am–5pm) or visit smileyelectric.net/contact. For sparks, smoke, a burning smell or a hot panel, turn off the power if it is safe and call right away.

Reviewed by Joshua Smiley, owner & master electrician, Smiley Electric. Last reviewed November 13, 2026. Online version: smileyelectric.net/help/electrical-safety-checklist/. General information, not a substitute for an on-site inspection.

Cite this page: Smiley Electric. “Electrical safety checklist for Portland homeowners.” smileyelectric.net/help/electrical-safety-checklist/. Last reviewed November 13, 2026. You are welcome to quote, print or share this page with credit to Smiley Electric and a link to smileyelectric.net/help/electrical-safety-checklist/.