

Home Electrical Safety Checklist

25 checks, ~10 minutes with a flashlight. Tick what's OK — anything you can't tick is worth a closer look.

BREAKER PANEL

- ☐ Panel door opens freely and nothing is stored against it
- ☐ No **warmth, buzzing or burning smell** at the panel
- ☐ No rust or water stains inside or around the box
- ☐ Every breaker is labeled and none are taped or held on
- ☐ No breaker trips more than once a month

OUTLETS & SWITCHES

- ☐ No outlet or switch plate is **warm to the touch**
- ☐ No discolored, cracked or loose outlets
- ☐ Plugs sit firmly — they don't fall out on their own
- ☐ Three-prong outlets everywhere (no two-prong originals)
- ☐ No crackle or flicker when you flip a switch

KITCHEN, BATH & OUTDOORS

- ☐ **GFCI outlets** within 6 ft of every sink, in bathrooms & garage
- ☐ Press TEST on each GFCI — it clicks off, RESET brings it back
- ☐ Outdoor outlets have weatherproof covers
- ☐ Bathroom fan works and is dust-free
- ☐ No extension cords feeding fridges, microwaves or heaters

CORDS & LIGHTS

- ☐ No cords under rugs, through doorways or stapled to walls
- ☐ No frayed, cracked or taped-up cords in use
- ☐ Power strips aren't daisy-chained into other power strips
- ☐ Bulbs match the fixture's max wattage label
- ☐ No lights dim when a big appliance kicks on

WHOLE HOME

- ☐ Smoke detectors on every floor — **test button works**
- ☐ Smoke detector batteries changed in the last 12 months
- ☐ No intermittent "ghost" flickering in any room
- ☐ You know where your main shut-off is and can reach it
- ☐ Home is under 40 years old **or** wiring inspected in the last 10 years

Couldn't tick 3 or more? That usually means aging wiring or an overloaded panel. An inspection catches it while it's still a small fix — burning smells, warm plates or repeated tripping deserve a call **today**.