

ASHLEY ⚡ RIVER  
W I R E D

# ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST

*EDUCATIONAL HOMEOWNER GUIDE*



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# WHY ELECTRICAL SAFETY MATTERS

Electrical issues remain of the leading causes of home fires in the U.S.

- Electrical malfunctions cause approximately 47,000 home fires each year, resulting in more than \$1.3 billion in property damage.
- Electrical failures are linked to over 400 deaths and 1,400 injuries annually.

In coastal areas like Charleston, **humidity, salty air, older wiring and crawlspace moisture** increase the risk of electrical deterioration over time.



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# ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST



## Inspect Your Breaker Box

Your electrical panel should operate quietly and consistently.

Check for:

- Breakers that feel warm or hot.
- Buzzing or humming sounds.
- Breakers that trip frequently.

These can indicate overloaded circuits or aging electrical components



## Watch for Overloaded Circuits

Modern homes use far more electricity than homes were originally designed for

Be Mindful of:

- Multiple appliances in one circuit.
- Space heaters, dehumidifiers, or HVAC systems sharing outlets.
- Power strips supporting too many devices.

Overloaded circuits are a common cause for electrical fires.



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# ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST



## Test GFCI Outlets Monthly

GFCI outlets protect against electrical shock, especially near water.

GFCIs should be installed in:

- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Garages
- Outdoor outlets

GFCIs have reduced household electrocutions by approximately 50% since becoming standard.

If a GFCI will not trip or reset, it may no longer provide protection.



## Inspect Extension Cords

Extension cords should only be used temporarily.

Check for:

- Fraying or cracking
- Loose or exposed wiring
- Overloaded cords powering high-draw devices

Improper extension cord use increases the risk of overheating and fire.



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# ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST



## Inspect Attic and Crawlspace Wiring

In Lowcountry homes, these areas are especially vulnerable.

Look for:

- Exposed wiring
- Rodent damage
- Corrosion or rust
- Moisture intrusion



Humidity and salt air can accelerate wire degradation in coastal environments.

## CHARLESTON & LOWCOUNTRY ELECTRICAL CODE AWARENESS

### General Homeowner Guidance

- GFCI protection is required in moisture-prone areas under modern electrical codes
- Outdoor outlets must be weather-resistant and properly covered
- Electrical systems in older and historic homes often predate modern safety standards

⚠ Many Charleston homes were built before current electrical codes existed.

That does not automatically mean they are unsafe, but it does mean periodic professional inspection is especially important.

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# WHEN TO CONTACT A LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

Call a professional if you experience:

- Flickering or dimming lights
- Breakers that trip repeatedly
- Burning smells or hot outlets
- Frequent power interruptions
- Visible wiring damage

Electrical issues rarely fix themselves. Early evaluation can prevent costly and dangerous outcomes.

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