



Expert Contributor  
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## When Should You Consider An Electrical Panel Replacement?

Your electrical panel plays a major role in keeping your home safe, functional, and ready for daily use. Unfortunately, issues are not always obvious at first, but there are a few common situations where it is worth having your system inspected by a licensed electrician.

### Signs You May Need an Electrical Panel Replacement

#### Your Electrical Panel Is Damaged or Outdated

If your electrical panel is old or visibly damaged, replacement may be the safest option. Damaged panels can malfunction or fail, increasing the risk of electrical surges, overloads, and fire hazards.

#### Signs to look out for:

- Rust or corrosion
- Dents or visible damage
- Burn marks
- Loose breakers
- Signs of overheating
- Unusual smells or sounds
- An older panel or fuse box

#### Your Home Needs More Electrical Capacity

Many older homes were not built for today's power demands. Larger appliances, home offices, entertainment systems, smart technology, and EV chargers can all put extra strain on your electrical panel.

#### Signs to look out for:

- Breakers trip when multiple appliances run at once
- Lights dim or flicker
- Appliances seem underpowered
- There is no room for new circuits
- Your panel is already operating near capacity
- Your electrical system feels unreliable

#### You Are Planning Home Upgrades

Many older homes were not built for today's power demands. Larger appliances, home offices, entertainment systems, smart technology, and EV chargers can all put extra strain on your electrical panel.

Even if your panel works for your current needs, it may not be ready for future upgrades. Before adding new appliances, devices, or renovated spaces, it is smart to have your panel evaluated.

#### Consider an inspection before adding:

- A home EV charger
- A heat pump
- A hot tub
- A kitchen renovation
- A home addition
- A secondary suite
- New laundry appliances
- Backup power equipment
- Smart home technology

#### Do You Need a Permit for a Panel Replacement?

Most electrical work on the North Shore is regulated under the Safety Standards Act. By law, only qualified individuals employed by licensed contractors may perform the work, and most regulated work requires a permit before work begins.

#### Installing a panel without the correct permits in place can lead to:

- Home insurance cancellation or the denial of claims.
- A disclosure on your property statement if you put your home up for sale. Failure to do this can result in civil action by buyers.
- Loss of value to your home.
- Stop work orders.
- Double permit fees
- Fines up to \$20,000

This is why it is important to work with a professional. A licensed electrician can help make sure the work is completed safely, properly, and legally.

#### What Are the Benefits of a New Panel?

An electrical panel replacement can improve safety, support modern power demands, and prepare your home for future upgrades.

- Reduce recurring breaker issues.
- Improve electrical reliability
- Support larger appliances or EV charging
- Add room for new circuits
- Prepare your home for renovations
- Improve long-term peace of mind

Your electrical panel plays an important role in keeping your home safe and ready for everyday power needs. If your panel is outdated, damaged, or no longer up to code, contact TCA Electric online to get started now.



### Is Your Home EV Ready?

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