

# Electrical Inspection Checklist for One-Family Homes

Based on the  
*2020 National Electrical Code® (NEC®)*

**NOTE:**

The Board of Electricity adopted the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) with an effective date of Nov. 17, 2020. Accordingly, the Department of Labor and Industry began enforcing the 2020 NEC on Nov.17, 2020. Electrical work authorized by permits issued on or after this date must comply with the 2020 NEC. Electrical license examinations are based on the requirements of the 2020 NEC beginning Jan. 1, 2021.

However, due to concerns regarding the availability of 2-pole GFCI circuit breakers, the department delayed enforcement of the requirements for 250-volt GFCI receptacles and outlet requirements found in NEC 210.8(A) and 210.8(F).

**On April 5, 2021, DLI will begin enforcing the 250-volt GFCI receptacle and outlet requirements found in NEC 210.8(A) and 210.8(F).** Industry circuit breaker manufacturers have confirmed that supply-chain challenges will be resolved in March 2021. Electrical work authorized by permits issued on or after April 5, 2021, must comply with the 2020 NEC.

**001** An owner (i.e. homeowner) who files a Request for Electrical Inspection form (i.e. permit) with the Department of Labor and Industry or other electrical inspection authority is signing an affidavit and declaring they own and occupy the residence and they will personally perform all of the electrical work, including the planning and laying out of the electrical work.

**002** The term “owner” is defined in law as a natural person who physically performs electrical work on premises the person owns and actually occupies as a residence or owns and will occupy as a residence upon completion of construction. Owner and homeowner are essentially synonymous for the purpose of this explanation.

**003** A separate permit with the required fees must be submitted to the Department at or before the start of any electrical work that is required by law to be inspected.

**004** A homeowner is exempt from having to possess a personal electrical license. However, It is illegal for unlicensed homeowners to install wiring in two-family dwellings, apartment buildings, condo buildings or other common interest community settings, certain townhouse buildings, manufactured homes in parks, recreational vehicles in parks, floating buildings on public waterways, or in or on any property that is rented, leased or occupied by others.

**005** All wiring including underground cable and conduit must be inspected at the rough-in stage before it is concealed by insulation, sheetrock, backfill or other materials. Except for the final connection to switches, receptacles and lighting fixtures, all equipment grounding wires in boxes must be spliced and pigtailed for the rough-in inspection.

**006** The installer must notify the inspector for final inspection when the wiring is complete and before the wiring is utilized and the space is occupied.

**007** If wiring is concealed before inspection, the person responsible for concealing the wiring is responsible for all costs associated with uncovering and replacing the covering material.

## GENERAL CIRCUIT REQUIREMENTS

**008** **NEC 406.4 and 406.12** All 125- and 250-volt, 15- and 20- amp receptacles installed or replaced in dwelling units shall be listed as tamper-resistant (TR). Three exceptions include receptacles located 5½ feet or more above the floor, a receptacle in space dedicated for an appliance that is not readily moved and receptacles that are part of a luminaire.

**009** **NEC 210.12** All branch circuits supplying 125-volt, 15- and 20- amp outlets or devices in dwelling unit kitchens, family rooms, dining rooms, living rooms, parlors, libraries, dens, bedrooms, sunrooms, recreation rooms, laundry areas, closets, hallways or similar areas shall be protected by a listed combination-type AFCI device. AFCI protection is also required where branch circuit wiring in the above locations is modified, replaced or extended.

**010** **NEC 210.11 and 422.12** In addition to the branch circuits installed to supply general illumination and receptacle outlets in dwelling units, the following minimum requirements apply:

- Two 20-amp circuits for the kitchen receptacles
- One 20-amp circuit for the laundry receptacles
- One 20-amp circuit for the bathroom receptacles
- One 20- amp circuit for garage receptacles
- One individual branch circuit for central heating equipment. (i.e. furnace)

**011** **NEC 406.4 and 406.9** Receptacles that are installed or replaced in wet locations shall be listed as weather-resistant “WR” and shall have an enclosure that is weatherproof with the cord inserted. Covers shall be marked “extra duty.”

**012** **NEC 300.3** All conductors of the same circuit, including grounding and bonding conductors shall be contained in the same raceway, cable or trench.

**013** **NEC 408.4** Every circuit and circuit modification shall be legibly identified as to its clear, evident and specific purpose or use in sufficient detail on a directory located on the face or inside of the electrical panel doors.

**014** **NEC 240.4** Conductors shall be protected in accordance with their ampacity per Table 310.15(B)(16) and 240.4(D)

**NEC 310.15 Maximum Overcurrent Protection**

Fuse or Circuit Breaker Size	Minimum Wire Size	
	Copper	Aluminum
15 amp	14	N/A
20 amp	12	N/A
30 amp	10	8
40 amp	8	6
50 amp	6	4

**For certain specific installations, conductors that supply motors, air-conditioning units, and other equipment may be permitted to have overcurrent protection that exceeds the basic limitations in the above chart.**

- 015** **NEC 200.11 and 406.3** Receptacle outlets shall be of the grounding-type, be grounded and have the proper polarity.
- 016** **NEC 210.52** Receptacle outlets in habitable rooms shall be installed so that no point measured horizontally along the floor line in any wall space is more than 6-feet from a receptacle outlet. A receptacle outlet shall be installed in each wall space 2-feet or more in width.
- 017** **NEC 210.52** At kitchen countertops, receptacle outlets shall be installed so that no point along the wall line is more than 24 inches measured horizontally from a receptacle outlet in that space. Countertop spaces separated by range tops, sinks or refrigerators are separate spaces.
- 018** **NEC 210.52** Island countertop, peninsular countertops and/or work surfaces shall have at least one receptacle outlet shall be provided for the first 9 ft<sup>2</sup>, or fraction thereof, of the countertop or work surface. A receptacle outlet shall be provided for every additional 18 ft<sup>2</sup>, or fraction thereof, of the island countertop, peninsular countertop, or work surface. When installing receptacle outlets that serve a peninsular countertop surface, at least one receptacle outlet shall be located within 2 feet of the outer end of a peninsular countertop or work surface. A peninsular countertop shall be measured from the connected perpendicular wall. Other than the receptacle outlet located within 2 feet of the outer edge of a peninsular countertop surface, the required receptacle outlets shall be permitted to be located as determined by the installer, designer, or building owner.
- 019** **NEC 210.52 & 406.9** At least one receptacle outlet accessible from grade shall be installed at the front and back of a dwelling with an extra duty cover that is weatherproof, whether or not an attachment plug cap is inserted in the receptacle outlet.
- 020** **NEC 210.52** Balconies, decks and porches accessible from inside a dwelling unit shall have at least one receptacle outlet located less than 6½ feet above the floor.
- 021** **NEC 210.52** In attached and detached garages at least one receptacle outlet shall be installed for and in each vehicle bay within 5½ feet from the floor.
- 022** **NEC 406.9** The required bathroom receptacle(s) shall not be installed within a zone measured 3 feet horizontally and 8 feet vertically from the top of the bathtub rim or shower stall threshold. The identified zone is all-encompassing and shall include the space directly over the tub or shower stall. However, if the size of the bathroom is too small and the required distance (zone) requirements can't be met, the receptacle(s) shall be permitted to be installed opposite the bathtub rim or shower stall threshold on the farthest wall within the room.

### **GFCI PROTECTION (GFCI)**

- 023** **NEC 210.8(A) and 406.4** The ground-fault circuit-interrupter shall be installed in a readily accessible location. Ground-fault circuit-interrupter (GFCI) protection shall be provided for all 125-volt through 250 volt, receptacle outlets installed outdoors, indoor damp and wet locations, in boathouses, crawl spaces, basements, laundry areas, garages, accessory buildings, bathrooms, at kitchen countertops and within 6-feet of the top inside edge of all sink bowls, and within 6-feet from the outside edge of bathtubs and shower stalls. GFCI protection shall be provided for all lighting outlets installed in crawl spaces.
- 024** **NEC 210.8(F)** GFCI protection shall be provided for outdoor outlets that are readily accessible. This would include air conditioners, heat pumps, split mini HVAC equipment and similar electrical equipment. It would not include and submersible well or sewer lift pump branch circuits.
- 025** **NEC 422.5** GFCI protection shall be provided for all dishwashers and sump pumps that are permanently connected or cord-and-plug connected.
- 026** **NEC 680.71** Hydro-massage bathtubs shall be supplied by an individual branch circuit and shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection.
- 027** **NEC 680.73** Hydro-massage bathtub equipment shall be accessible without damaging the building structure or finish. When accessible through an access panel, the receptacle outlet shall be within 1-foot of and face the opening.
- 028** **NEC 680.21(C)** All outlets supplying 125- or 240-volt pool pump motors shall be provided with GFCI protection.

029 **NEC 680.26** An equipotential bonding grid to mitigate step and touch voltage potential shall be installed at outdoor swimming pools, spas and hot tubs and at electrical equipment installed outdoors adjacent to natural and artificially made bodies of water.

### **WIRING METHODS**

030 **NEC 314.23** All electrical boxes shall be rigidly secured to the building structure.

031 **NEC 314.27(C)** A listed fan box or a ceiling box with access to a framing member shall be installed in all locations where a ceiling paddle could be installed in a habitable room.

032 **NEC 334.30** Type NM (nonmetallic) cables shall be secured every 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-feet and within 12 inches of each box.

033 **NEC 314.17** The outer jacket of type NM cable shall be secured to the box and extend into the box at least ¼ inch.

034 **NEC 300.14** The minimum length of conductors including equipment grounding conductors in all boxes shall be 6-inches, with at least 3-inches of length extended outside the box.

035 **NEC 300.4** Cables and raceways shall be protected from damage. Where installed through holes in wood framing, the edge of the hole shall be not less than 1¼-inch from the nearest edge of the wood member or shall be protected by a 1/16-inch steel plate. Note: Using the inside hole on single-gang boxes does not allow for the 1 ¼-inch clearance.

**CAUTION: Refer to the Building Code for restrictions on boring, cutting, drilling and notching of wood framing members**

036 **NEC 300.22** Type NM cable shall not be installed in environmental plenum air spaces, but may be installed perpendicular to the long dimension of joist or stud spaces.

037 **NEC 110.14** Terminals for more than one conductor shall be identified. Where there is more than one equipment grounding wire they shall be spliced together with a “pigtail” and attached to the singular grounding terminal of the device.

038 **NEC 200.7** Where permanently re-identified at each location where it is visible and accessible, the conductor with white colored insulation in type NM cable may be used as an ungrounded (hot) conductor. The re-identified conductor shall not be used as the return conductor from a switch to an outlet.

039 **NEC 250.134** All non-current carrying metal parts of electrical equipment, including raceways, metal boxes and equipment shall be connected to an equipment grounding conductor.

040 **NEC 110.12** Unused openings in boxes shall be effectively closed. A nonmetallic box shall be replaced if cable openings are punched out but not used.

041 **NEC 408.41** Each grounded circuit conductor (i.e. neutral) within a panelboard shall terminate in an individual terminal.

042 **NEC 404.2** Generally, the neutral circuit conductor for the lighting circuit shall be installed at locations where switches control lighting loads, unless the wiring is installed in a raceway, the switch box remains accessible, or the switch controls a receptacle load. Dimmers often require a neutral connection.

043 **NEC 314.29** Junction boxes shall be accessible without removing any part of the building.

044 **NEC 314.16** The number of conductors and devices to be contained within electrical boxes determines the box size. Nonmetallic boxes are marked with their cubic inch capacity.

Example: a box with four 14/2 w/ground type NM cables:

Cubic Inches Required for Boxes			
Conductor Size	14 AWG	12 AWG	10 AWG
Each insulated wire	2	2.25	2.5
All grounding wires combined	2	2.25	2.5
Each switch or receptacle	4	4.5	5
All internal cable clamps	2	2.25	2.5

**Example:**

<b>8 insulated wires</b>	<b>= 16 cubic inches</b>
<b>All 4 grounding wires</b>	= 2 cubic inches
<b>1 switch</b>	= 4 cubic inches
<b>1 receptacle</b>	= 4 cubic inches
<b>All cable clamps</b>	= 2 cubic inches
<b>Minimum Box Volume</b>	<b>= 28 cubic inches</b>

**NOTE: If you have more than 4 equipment grounding conductors in a box, a further adjustment of ¼ volume allowance needs to be added for each conductor based on the largest wire in the box.**

**045** **NEC 410.16** Luminaires in clothes closets shall have the following minimum clearances from the defined storage space:

- 12 inches for totally enclosed surface mounted incandescent or LED luminaires on the ceiling or above the door
- 6 inches for totally enclosed recessed incandescent or LED luminaires on the ceiling or above the door
- 6 inches for surface mounted or recessed fluorescent luminaires on the ceiling or above the door

**046** **NEC 410.2** Defined closet storage space extends from the floor to a height of 6-feet or the highest clothes-hanging rod and 24-inches from the sides and back of the closet walls, and continuing vertically to the ceiling parallel to the walls at 12-inches or the shelf width, whichever is greater.

**047** **NEC 410.16** Incandescent luminaires with open or partially enclosed lamps and pendant fixtures or lampholders are not permitted in clothes closets.

**048** **NEC 410.10** Luminaires installed in wet or damp locations shall be installed so that water cannot enter or accumulate and shall be marked as suitable for use in wet or damp locations, correspondingly.

### **EQUIPMENT LISTING AND LABELING**

**049** **Minnesota Rules 3801.3620** All electrical equipment, including luminaires, devices and appliances used as part of or in connection with an electrical installation shall be listed and labeled by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) as having been tested and found suitable for a specific purpose.

**050** **NEC 110.3** Listed electrical equipment shall be installed and used in accordance with the listing requirements and the manufacturer's installation instructions.

### **ELECTRICAL SERVICES**

**051** **NEC 230.70** The service disconnecting means shall be installed at a readily accessible location either outside a building or structure, or inside nearest the point of entrance of the service-entrance conductors.

**052** **NEC 310.12 Conductor Sizes For 120/240-Volt, 3-Wire, Single-Phase, Dwelling Services and Feeders (where the service or feeder supplies the entire load of the home)**

Copper	Aluminum	Service Rating
4 AWG	2 AWG	100 amps
1 AWG	2/0	150 amps
2/0	4/0	200 amps
400 kcmil	600 kcmil	400 amps

- 053 **NEC 110.14** Conductors of dissimilar metals shall not be intermixed unless the device is listed for the purpose.
- 054 **NEC 230.67** A dwelling electrical service must be protected by a Type 1 or Type 2 surge protective device.
- 055 **NEC 230.85** Each dwelling shall have an outdoor readily accessible emergency disconnect installed. The emergency disconnect could be a service disconnect for the dwelling or it could be a disconnect supplied by the serving utility. If the disconnect is the service disconnect, it must be labeled as the “EMERGENCY DISCONNECT- SERVICE DISCONNECT”. If the disconnect is provided by the serving utility, and is not the service disconnect, the disconnect must be labeled “EMERGENCY DISCONNECT – NOT SERVICE EQUIPMENT”.
- 056 **NEC 300.7** Portions of raceways or sleeves passing from the interior to the exterior of a building or subject to different temperatures shall be filled with an approved material (e.g. Duxseal) to prevent condensation from entering equipment.
- 057 **NEC 230.54** Service-entrance and overhead service conductors shall be arranged so that water will not enter the service enclosure.
- 058 **NEC 300.9** The interior of raceways installed in wet locations above grade shall be considered wet locations.
- 059 **NEC 300.4** Conductors 4 AWG or larger shall be protected by a bushing when entering an enclosure through a raceway.
- 060 **NEC 230.70** The service disconnecting means shall not be located in a bathroom.
- 061 **NEC 240.24** Overcurrent devices shall be readily accessible and not located in bathrooms or in the vicinity of easily ignitable materials such as clothes closets.
- 062 **NEC 408.36** Back-fed overcurrent devices shall be secured by an additional approved fastener that requires a tool for removal.
- 063 **NEC 110.26** Working space shall be a minimum of 3-feet in the direction of access to live parts and the width of the equipment or 30 inches, whichever is greater, extending from the floor to 6½-feet and shall not be used for storage. The space below and above the electrical panelboard from the floor to the ceiling is dedicated for electrical wiring and no piping, ducts or apparatus shall be in this space.
- 064 **NEC 110.26** Illumination shall be provided for the working space about service equipment and panelboards.

### **GROUNDING AND BONDING**

- 065 **NEC 250.28** The main bonding jumper (*generally the green bonding screw or strap provided by the panel manufacturer*) shall be installed in the main service panel.
- 066 **NEC 250.32** Detached buildings or structures supplied by a feeder or branch circuit shall have an equipment grounding conductor installed with the supply conductors and connected to the grounding electrode system at the building or structure.
- 067 **NEC 250.50** All grounding electrodes that are present at each building or structure shall be bonded together to form the grounding electrode system.
- 068 **NEC 250.52** Acceptable grounding electrodes include at least 10-feet of metal underground water pipe, a metal frame of a building or structure, a rod, pipe or plate electrode, a concrete encased electrode or a ground ring.
- 069 **NEC 250.53** A metal underground water pipe electrode shall be supplemented by an additional electrode.
- 070 **NEC 250.53** Unless a rod, pipe and plate electrode has a resistance to ground of 25 ohms or less, it shall be supplemented with another acceptable electrode other than an underground water pipe.
- 071 **NEC 250.104** The interior metal water piping and other metal piping that may become energized shall be bonded to the service equipment with a bonding jumper sized the same as the grounding electrode conductor.
- 072 **NEC 250.64** The grounding electrode conductor shall be continuous, securely fastened and protected from physical damage. Grounding electrode conductors are not required to comply with the minimum cover requirements in 300.5

## UNDERGROUND WIRING

**073** **NEC 300.5** Direct buried cable or conduit or other raceways shall meet the following minimum cover requirements:

Direct Burial Cable	Rigid or Intermediate Metal Conduit	Nonmetallic Raceway (PVC)
24 inches	6 inches	18 inches
The minimum cover for a 120-volt residential branch circuit rated 20-amps or less and provided with GFCI protection at the source is permitted to be 12-inches.		

**074** **NEC 300.5** Underground service conductors shall have their location identified by a warning ribbon placed in the trench at least 12-inches above the underground installation.

**075** **NEC 300.5** Where subject to ground movement such as Minnesota’s freeze-thaw, winter-summer seasons, direct buried cables and raceways shall be installed with expansion capability to prevent damage to the enclosed conductors or to the connected equipment.

**076** **NEC 110.14** Wire splicing devices for direct burial conductors shall be listed for such use.

**077** **NEC 300.5** Conductors emerging from underground shall be installed in rigid metal conduit, intermediate metal conduit, or Schedule 80 rigid nonmetallic conduit from 18-inches below grade or the minimum cover distance up to the point of termination above ground.

Equivalent Size of Service Entrance Conductor		Size of the Grounding Electrode Conductor	
Copper	Aluminum	Copper	Aluminum
4 AWG	2	8	6
1 AWG	2/0	6	4
2/0 or 3/0	4/0 or 250	4	2

***This is a general overview of residential electrical requirements. For complete regulations, please refer to the National Electrical Code (NEC) and Minnesota Statutes and Rules***

***Please refer to the department 2020 NEC FAQ for additional information***

<https://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/NECFAQ20.pdf>

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