TRILOGY ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS — FREE HOMEOWNER GUIDE

Homeowner Electrical Safety Checklist

The checks every homeowner can safely do — and the bright line where you stop and call an electrician.

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Questions? **(480) 251-5611** · trilogyelectricalsolutions.com

> **The one rule behind this whole list:** every check here is eyes, ears, nose, and one test button. No tools, no covers removed, nothing opened. If a check needs more than that, it is not a checklist item — it is a phone call.

Monthly Checks

ABOUT 5 MINUTES

- ☐ **Test every GFCI outlet** — kitchen, bathrooms, garage, laundry, outdoors. Press **TEST**: power should click off. Press **RESET**: power returns. If it won't trip or won't reset, stop using that outlet and call an electrician.
- ☐ **Test AFCI / GFCI breakers** — the breakers in your panel marked AFCI or GFCI have a small test button. Panel *door* only: press it, then switch the breaker fully OFF and back ON to reset.
- ☐ **Test smoke and CO alarms** — press and hold the test button on each one until it sounds. Every alarm in the house should beep. No sound means no protection.
- ☐ **Walk-around glance** — no cords running under rugs or furniture, no space heaters plugged into extension cords or power strips, nothing anywhere that looks scorched or smells like hot plastic.

Twice-a-Year Checks

SPRING & FALL

- ☐ **Check alarm expiration dates** — printed on the back of each alarm. Smoke alarms expire at **10 years**, CO alarms at **5–7 years**. Replace expired alarms outright; fresh batteries don't revive an expired sensor. Replace batteries in battery-powered alarms — and never just unplug one that's chirping.
- ☐ **Panel once-over — look, listen, smell (door only)** — no rust or water staining, no buzzing or crackling, no burnt smell, no scorch marks or discoloration around breakers. Anything on that list: stop here and call.
- ☐ **Outdoor outlets** — weatherproof covers intact and closing fully, GFCI test done, no cracked housings after storm season.

If a Breaker Trips — Safe First Steps

1. **Unplug things.** Unplug or switch off everything you believe is on that circuit.
2. **Reset once.** At the panel, push the breaker firmly to full OFF (a tripped breaker often rests in the middle), then back to ON.
3. **Add things back one at a time.** If it trips when one particular item returns, that item is faulty — unplug it and leave it unplugged.
4. **Know when to stop.** If it trips instantly, or trips again with nothing plugged in, stop resetting it. A breaker that keeps tripping is doing its job — something behind it is wrong.
5. **Never** tape, wedge, or hold a breaker in the ON position, and never swap in a bigger breaker to "fix" tripping. Both turn a warning into a fire risk.

Surge Protection Basics

- ☐ **Plug-in strips protect one spot** — the TV and computer on that strip. They also wear out: if the "PROTECTED" light is dark, it's just a power strip now.
- ☐ **Whole-home protection guards everything** — a surge protector installed at the panel covers the AC, appliances, and EV charger, not just electronics. Current code (NEC 230.67) requires surge protection on new and replacement home services — a licensed electrician installs it.
- ☐ **Valley reality** — between monsoon lightning and everyday grid switching, a surge isn't an if. It's a when.

Outlets & Switches — Red Flags

- ▲ Warm or hot to the touch, discolored, or melted
- ▲ Buzzing, crackling, or popping sounds
- ▲ Sparks, or a burning / hot-plastic smell
- ▲ Plugs fall out loosely (worn contacts can arc)
- ▲ Cover plates cracked or missing
- ▲ A shock or tingle from a switch or appliance — call the same day

■ STOP — Call an Electrician

- ☐ Burning smell, scorch marks, or melted plastic — anywhere, any time
- ☐ Buzzing or crackling from the panel, or a panel face that's hot or sparking
- ☐ A breaker that trips instantly, trips over and over, or won't reset
- ☐ Lights flickering or dimming across the whole house, or every time the AC starts — that can be a failing neutral connection, and it's serious. Don't wait on this one
- ☐ A tingle or shock from an appliance, a switch, or a faucet or plumbing
- ☐ Water inside the panel, an outlet, or a light fixture
- ☐ **Anything that means removing the panel cover, opening an outlet or switch box, replacing a breaker, or touching wiring.** The deadfront cover stays on. That work is licensed-electrician work — full stop, no exceptions for "quick" jobs

IN OVER YOUR HEAD — OR JUST OUT OF TIME?

This list is free. Your Saturday afternoon isn't.

Book the **Trilogy Home Safety Check** — we come out and run this entire checklist for you: every GFCI and AFCI tested, panel inspected, alarms and their expiration dates checked, red flags scanned, and the results in writing.

$149 flat. No service fee on top for this visit. $149 comes off any work you book from the findings within 30 days.

Book: (480) 251-5611

Valley Seasons — What to Watch

- ☐ **Summer heat.** Your AC is the biggest load in the house. Dimming lights when it starts, or its breaker tripping on the hottest afternoons, are warnings — not quirks. Test pool and spa GFCIs before swim season, and take flickers that only happen in the heat of the day seriously: attic heat is hard on wiring.
- ☐ **Monsoon (mid-June through September).** Expect surges when power flickers or comes back on — check GFCI and surge-protector lights after big storms and reset what's tripped. Make sure outdoor outlet covers seal tight. If a line comes down near your home, stay far away and call the utility and an electrician — never move it.
- ☐ **Guests & holidays.** Space heaters: one per circuit, plugged straight into the wall — never into a power strip or extension cord. Holiday lights belong on GFCI-protected outdoor outlets, on a timer.
- ☐ **Spring reset.** Before the heat arrives, run the full monthly and twice-a-year lists on page 1. Twenty minutes in April is the cheapest insurance of AC season.

Know Your Home — Fill This In Once

Panel location: _____ Main breaker size: _____ amps

Smoke alarms installed (year): _____ CO alarms (year): _____ Whole-home surge protector: ☐ Yes ☐ No

My electrician: **Trilogy Electrical Solutions — (480) 251-5611**

Found something on the red-flag list? That's exactly what we do. Trilogy Electrical Solutions is known across Laveen & Phoenix for troubleshooting done right — including the jobs other electricians already walked away from.

Call (480) 251-5611 · trilogyelectricalsolutions.com

This checklist is general safety information for homeowners. It covers looking, listening, smelling, and pressing test buttons only — it is not a substitute for an inspection by a licensed electrician, and it does not authorize any electrical work. Codes referenced are national standards; local requirements vary. When anything looks, sounds, or smells wrong: stop, and call a licensed electrician. © Trilogy Electrical Solutions · Licensed, Bonded & Insured · AZ ROC 345048 · Laveen Village, Phoenix, AZ.