KNOW WHEN

TO UPGRADE YOUR PANEL

Age & Capacity

- Your panel is over 25–30 years old (many older homes still have 60–100 amp panels).
- You're constantly using extension cords or power strips.
- Breaker panel doesn't have enough slots for new circuits.

Frequent Electrical Issues

- Breakers trip often or won't reset.
- Lights flicker or dim when appliances turn on.
- You notice buzzing, sparking, or burning smells near the panel.

Signs of Damage or Obsolete Equipment

- Rust, corrosion, or moisture in/around the panel.
- Warm breakers or panel cover feels hot to the touch.
- Your panel brand is one of the recalled/obsolete types (e.g., Federal Pacific, Zinsco, Bulldog Pushmatic).

Lifestyle & Technology Upgrades

- Adding large appliances (EV charger, hot tub, HVAC, electric range).
- Planning a remodel, addition, or finishing a basement.
- Switching from gas to electric appliances.
- Installing solar panels or backup generators.

Pro Tips

- If breakers aren't labeled, it may signal DIY wiring worth a panel inspection.
- Panels without main disconnects can delay emergency shutoff.
- Insurance companies may deny claims if a fire starts from an outdated or recalled panel.
- Energy monitors often reveal hidden overloads a clue you need more capacity.

Safety Check

Upgrade immediately if you notice:

- A panel that is warm or smells like burning plastic.
- Breakers that arc, buzz, or trip repeatedly.
- Visible scorch marks or melted wires.

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