Electrical Panel Permit Application & Inspection Checklist

Homeowner Edition — Use before applying and before your inspection | Free resource from panelpermitmap.pages.dev

Property Address:	_____
Parcel Number (APN):	_____
Permit Number:	_____
Permit Expiration:	_____
Building Dept. Phone:	_____
Utility Co. & Phone:	_____
Inspection Date/Time:	_____

SECTION 1: BEFORE YOU APPLY

Complete before submitting permit application

- [ ] Property address confirmed — matches what will appear on application
- [ ] Parcel number (APN) obtained from county assessor's website or tax bill
- [ ] Current panel amperage identified (printed on main breaker)
- [ ] New panel amperage determined (100A / 150A / 200A / 400A)
- [ ] Panel manufacturer and model selected (if replacing)
- [ ] Project description written clearly: e.g. '200A residential service panel replacement'
- [ ] Owner-builder eligibility confirmed with local building department
- [ ] Owner-builder declaration form downloaded or located on permit portal
- [ ] Estimated project value calculated ($1,500–$5,000 typical range)
- [ ] Online permit portal account created (or in-person visit scheduled)
- [ ] Permit fee estimated and payment method ready

SECTION 2: AFTER PERMIT APPROVAL

Before starting work

- [ ] Permit approved — confirmation received by email or portal
- [ ] Permit card printed and posted visibly at job site (front window or entry)
- [ ] Utility company contacted — service disconnect scheduled (allow 1–4 weeks)
- [ ] Utility disconnect date confirmed in writing or by phone

- [ ] Panel working clearance verified: 30" wide × 36" deep × 78" high (NEC 110.26)
- [ ] All materials purchased and on-hand (panel, breakers, grounding components, wire)
- [ ] Materials are listed/labeled products (UL, ETL, or CSA listed)

SECTION 3: INSTALLATION INSPECTION POINTS

Inspector will verify all items below

Grounding & Bonding

- [ ] Ground rod(s) installed — minimum 8 ft, #6 AWG or larger conductor to panel
- [ ] Metal water pipe bond: #4 AWG within 5 ft of entry, bonded to panel ground bar
- [ ] Neutral bar and ground bar BONDED at main panel (main bonding jumper installed)
- [ ] Neutral bar and ground bar SEPARATED at any sub-panels (not bonded)
- [ ] All grounding conductors are green, bare copper, or marked green

Service Entrance & Panel Enclosure

- [ ] Service entrance conductors properly sleeved in conduit or SE cable
- [ ] Drip loop present on exterior service entrance conductors
- [ ] Main breaker properly rated for service size (200A panel → 200A main breaker)
- [ ] Panel enclosure is undamaged and fits the installation location properly
- [ ] All unused knockouts closed with listed fillers (CRITICAL — commonly failed)
- [ ] Dead front cover fits securely and can be safely removed
- [ ] Panel clearances meet NEC 110.26 (30" × 36" × 78")

Wiring & Connections

- [ ] All wire connections tight — no loose terminals or stray strands
- [ ] Conductors properly sized for their breakers (no undersized wire)
- [ ] No aluminum wire on breakers rated for copper only (check for CO/ALR marking)
- [ ] No double-tapped breakers (unless using listed tandem/duplex breaker)
- [ ] Neutral conductors properly white or gray

AFCI & GFCI Protection

- [ ] AFCI breakers installed on all circuits required by local NEC edition (bedrooms minimum; NEC 2020: most habitable rooms)
- [ ] GFCI protection present on bathroom circuits
- [ ] GFCI protection on kitchen countertop receptacle circuits
- [ ] GFCI protection on garage, outdoor, and wet-area circuits

Labeling

- [ ] Every circuit labeled on directory card — no blank spaces or 'unknown' entries
- [ ] Panel directory card legible and permanently attached inside door
- [ ] Panel nameplate (manufacturer, amperage, voltage rating) visible

SECTION 4: DAY OF INSPECTION

Have everything ready before inspector arrives

- [ ] Permit card posted visibly at entry, or permit number ready to provide
- [ ] Panel area clear and accessible — no boxes, storage, or obstructions
- [ ] Dead front cover removed or ready to remove quickly
- [ ] All work is visible — no walls closed or work buried before inspection
- [ ] You or a knowledgeable person is present to answer inspector's questions
- [ ] Flashlight available for inspector's use if needed
- [ ] Utility company contact info on hand in case of questions

5 Most Common Inspection Failures: 1) Missing AFCI/GFCI breakers 2) Insufficient working clearance 3) Open knockouts 4) Unlabeled circuits 5) Grounding errors