

Electrician Panel Upgrade Photo Checklist

Most electrical work — wire routing, rough-in connections, grounding, conduit runs — disappears behind drywall, above drop ceilings, and under concrete. When an inspection fails or a dispute surfaces, the question is always the same: **can you prove what was installed, how it was wired, and that it met code?** This guide gives your crew the exact shots to capture at every critical phase — for new construction, service upgrades, and commercial work alike.

THE 7 PHASES

Document Every Phase, Protect Every Job

01 PHASE Pre-Job Site Assessment

- Panel brand, size & condition
- Meter base & service entrance
- Knob-and-tube or aluminum wiring
- Existing GFCI / AFCI protection
- Water or fire damage near panels
- Double-tapped breakers visible
- Grounding electrode condition
- Permit & approved plans on-site
- Electrical room access & clearance
- Utility connection point

02 PHASE Safety, Lockout & Pre-Conditions

- LOTO applied & photographed
- Voltage tester on known live circuit
- PPE in use — gloves, safety glasses
- Arc flash signage posted
- Working clearance: 3 ft minimum
- Dedicated electrical space clear
- Wet or damp conditions noted
- Hazmat near electrical equipment

03 PHASE Rough-In Wire Routing & Boxes

- Wide shot of all rough-in wiring
- Cable secured within 12" of box
- Cable stapled every 4.5 ft
- Nail plates on exposed stud edges
- Box fill — conductors visible
- Box mounting height & attachment
- Wire type & gauge labeled
- Conduit bends & supports
- Separation from low-voltage
- Multi-wire circuit labels



04 PHASE Panel, Service Entrance & Grounding

- Panel amperage rating & label
- Meter base & socket condition
- Ground/neutral separation sub-panel
- Service entrance conductor size
- Main breaker size & rating
- Grounding electrode conductor
- Weatherhead drip loop
- Neutral on own terminal (408.41)
- Ground rod depth & bonding

05 PHASE Circuit Wiring, Devices & Receptacles

- AFCI breakers per NEC 210.12
- Receptacle spacing: max 6 ft apart
- 240V: wire gauge matches breaker
- GFCI: kitchen, bath, garage, outdoor
- Small appliance circuits — counters
- Switch loop white wire re-identified
- Tamper-resistant receptacles (TR)
- Dedicated circuits: fridge, DW, EV
- Box grounding conductors pigtailed

06 PHASE Specialty Systems & Code Items

- Smoke & CO detector wiring
- EV charger circuit & disconnect
- Bathroom exhaust fan circuit
- Emergency disconnect labeled
- Generator / transfer switch wiring
- Outdoor receptacle WP covers
- Surge protector installed (230.67)
- Solar / battery system disconnect
- Pool / spa bonding grid

07 PHASE Final Inspection & Closeout

- Panel directory — circuits labeled
- Breaker sizing matches wire gauge
- Underground / trench before backfill
- Permit card / inspection sticker
- Inspector signature on permit
- As-built photos: concealed work
- Cover plates & box covers on
- Final panel interior — dressed
- Client walkthrough — key circuits

HOW TO USE THIS IN THE FIELD

Turn This Checklist Into Your Daily Workflow

- 01 Photograph Before the Wall Closes**

Rough-in, grounding, and wire routing disappear behind drywall. Once it's covered, there's no going back — and no proof.
- 02 Capture Every Label and Rating**

Panel brand, breaker amperage, wire gauge markings, and inspection stickers are the details that win disputes and pass re-inspections.
- 03 Document the Pre-Existing Condition First**

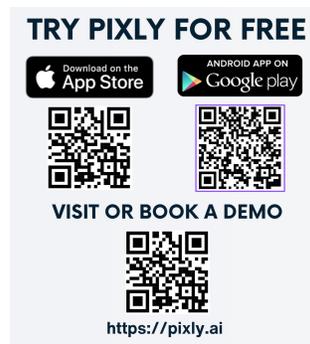
Photos of the old panel, existing wiring type, and pre-job hazards protect you from being blamed for conditions you inherited.
- 04 Get the Permit Sticker in Every Final Shot**

A photo of completed work alongside the stamped permit card is the clearest proof of a code-compliant, inspected installation.

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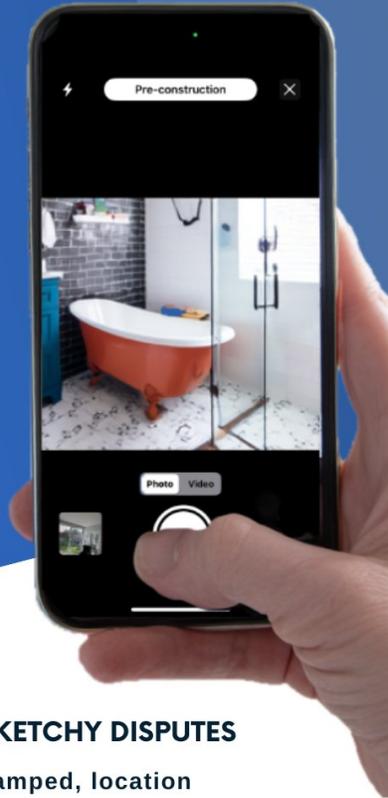
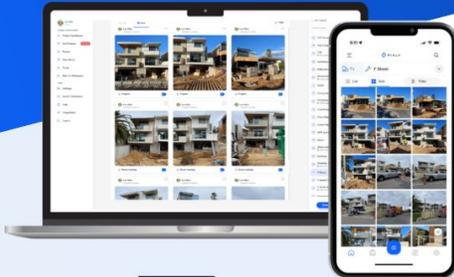
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