The National Electrical Code is revised every three years and outlines the minimum requirements for safe electrical installations. Many older homes may not have an adequate electrical system to meet the electrical demands of today. If you’re renovating your home, make sure to have the following electrical devices installed to maintain an electrically safe home.

### Safety Devices

- **Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCI):** Available as a circuit breaker and receptacle. AFCIs protect against electrical fires from malfunctions. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 50% of home electrical fires can be prevented by proper AFCI protection.

- **Surge Protective Devices (SPD):** Protect against surges that can damage or reduce the lifespan of your electrical system and devices.

- **Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI):** Available as a circuit breaker and receptacle. GFCIs protect against electric shock and are required in areas where water and electricity may come in contact.

- **Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRR):** Function like normal receptacles but they include an internal shutter system to prevent foreign objects, other than plugs, from being inserted into the outlets.

### 2020 Code Requirements

- **Bathrooms:** GFCI Protection
- **Basements & Crawl Spaces:** AFCI Protection (in finished basements), GFCI Protection (in crawl spaces at or below grade)
- **Bedrooms:** AFCI Protection
- **Common Rooms:** AFCI Protection (family, dining, parlor, libraries, dens, recreation, and similar rooms)
- **Garages:** GFCI Protection
- **Hallways & Closets:** AFCI Protection
- **Kitchens:** GFCI Protection
- **Laundry Areas:** AFCI Protection, GFCI Protection
- **Outdoors:** GFCI Protection

### 2020 National Electrical Code Highlights

- All receptacles in homes, garages, accessory buildings, and common areas of multifamily homes must be protected by TRRs.

- New and replaced service equipment are now required to be protected by listed Type 1 or Type 2 Surge Protective Devices.

- Outdoor emergency disconnects are required for new construction and homes having their service replaced.