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 breakers 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

Renovating the following areas in your home? The following protection is required in these areas as of the 2020 National Electrical Code:

#### Bathrooms
- **GFCI Protection**

#### Basements & Crawl Spaces
- **AFCI Protection**
  - ( wherever basements are located)
- **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**
  - (where the receptacles are installed to serve the countertop surfaces or where receptacles are installed within 6 feet of a sink)

#### 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.