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Home Electrical Safety & DIY-vs-Pro Checklist

A free homeowner guide from electrician.id

When to Stop and Call a Pro Immediately

Always urgent — never DIY

- ☐ Sparking outlets or switches
- ☐ Burning smell from any electrical source
- ☐ Visible smoke from an outlet, panel, or appliance
- ☐ Exposed or damaged wiring

What's Usually DIY-Safe

Common DIY-safe tasks (breaker off)

- ☐ Replacing a light switch or outlet cover
- ☐ Swapping a like-for-like light fixture
- ☐ Replacing a single bulb or dimmer switch

Always call a licensed electrician for

- ☐ Panel upgrades or new circuits
- ☐ Any work behind walls or in the attic
- ☐ EV charger installation
- ☐ Outdoor/exterior wiring

EV Charger Installation Basics

Before you buy a charger

- ☐ Confirm your panel has capacity for a Level 2 charger
- ☐ Measure distance from panel to charger location — affects cost
- ☐ Check charger compatibility with your specific EV
- ☐ Ask if a permit is required in your area (often yes)

Not sure if it's safe? Get a free screening.

Run your issue through our free AI safety screener at electrician.id and get matched with a licensed local electrician — free, no obligation.

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