



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTORS

Smart Tools for Smart Distribution,sm



NAED's Electrical Contractor Premise Audit Q&A

Residential Electrical Upgrades for Your Customers

Use this Premise Audit as you look over your customer's home. Based on your observations, check off a few simple questions to ask your customers. The answers listed in this Audit recommend electrical work you can suggest to help your customers save money through energy savings and make their home safe, stylish, secure, and comfortable.

FOR HOMES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

**First Ask Your
Customers...**

**Then Offer Your
Customers...**

Q: Do you have infants or preschool age children?

A: If you do, electrical outlets can be dangerous if kids insert anything into the wall outlet. I can install **tamper-resistant child-proof receptacles** that are designed with retractable doors that block the power outlet slots when not in use. I can also install **Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter (AFCI)** receptacles in the bedrooms to reduce the risk of fire.

A: Also, it can be dangerous when children need to use the bathroom at night. I can install **wall-mounted infrared occupancy sensors** that automatically turn lights on in hallways and bathrooms.

Q: Do you have GFCI receptacles that work properly in all bathrooms, kitchen, and yard areas?

A: **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)** receptacles can eliminate the risk of electrical shock. If you don't have adequate GFCIs, or if they don't function properly, that's dangerous. I can reduce the risk of electrocution with ground fault circuit protection in all appropriate rooms and play areas. I can install **new GFCI receptacles** that meet current UL safety standards, and I can also **test your existing GFCIs**.

A: Also, **GFCI protection** should be installed in children's bedrooms for all room air conditioners.

Q: Do you have any receptacles in the house that are damaged, malfunctioning, or that feel warm to the touch?

A: Damaged receptacles can cause a risk for shock hazard and/or fire. Damaged receptacles are dangerous and should be replaced. I can reduce the risk of these problems by installing **new devices**.

FOR HOMES WITH SENIOR CITIZENS

First Ask Your Customers...

Then Offer Your Customers...

Q: Are there any elderly family members or guests living in your home?

A: If there are senior citizens frequently on the premises, I can install **motion detector occupancy sensors** that can improve visibility by automatically triggering lights to better illuminate hallways and bathrooms. Occupancy sensors are ideal for people.

A: I can also install additional **security lighting** in interior or exterior areas that are dark in order to improve limited visibility in areas such as foyer and stairs, exterior steps and walkway, driveway, pathway, front entry, side yard, back yard, and pool. Security lighting is a great way to reduce the risk of tripping and falling, and it also provides an added level of protection from unwanted intruders.

A: Senior citizens find **rocker-style illuminated wall switches** help them more easily locate and activate light switches in a dark room.

A: Wheelchair-bound senior citizens find **switches that are lowered to approximately 40" above the floor** help them more easily activate light switches in any room.

FOR SAFER HOMES & PEACE OF MIND

**First Ask Your
Customers...**

**Then Offer Your
Customers...**

Q: Do you have an adequate number of installed GFCI receptacles to provide protection?

A: Many homes don't have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) everywhere they should, or GFCIs that function properly. Those situations are dangerous. I can reduce the risk of electrocution with protection in all appropriate rooms and work areas. I can install **new GFCI receptacles** that meet current UL safety standards, and I can also **test your existing GFCIs** to ensure they work properly.

Q: Do you have AFCI receptacles in all bedrooms?

A: If not, I can install **arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs)** that will help reduce the risk of fire in your home.

Q: Are you using multiple extension cords to provide rooms with adequate power outlets?

A: If so, I can eliminate these fire hazards by expanding your available safe power by installing **additional wall receptacles** as well as replacing all non-grounded outlets with **multi-gang grounded receptacles or GFCIs**.

Q: Do you have GFCI-protected receptacles on the exterior of your home?

A: If not, **outside GFCI-protected receptacles mounted in tough, weather-proof enclosure boxes** provide electrical power for outside activities while offering safe year-round protection against electrocution near outdoor patios, lawn areas, driveways, decks, and pools.

FOR SAFER HOMES & PEACE OF MIND

**First Ask Your
Customers...**

**Then Offer Your
Customers...**

Q: Are there broken receptacles or receptacles that feel warm to the touch in your home?

A: If so, these devices can possibly fail and can cause a risk for shock hazard and/or fire. I can easily **replace damaged or inoperable devices** to ensure proper safe operation.

Q: Are some plugs loose-fitting when plugged into receptacles?

A: If so, loose-fitting plugs can cause overheating which is dangerous. I can easily **replace old or damaged receptacles** to ensure safe plug connections.

Q: Do you have poor exterior lighting in your driveway or pathway areas?

A: If so, poor visibility due to poor lighting can lead to potential injuries and reduces home security. I can install **outdoor motion sensor-controlled floodlights** that will provide greater safety and security while discouraging vandals.

Q: Are you frequently tripping your circuit breakers or blowing fuses when drawing additional power from electrical outlets?

A: If so, I can eliminate this annoyance that's common to many older homes which may have electrical service that is inadequate to meet your current needs by **increasing the amperage of your electrical service, or by splitting your overloaded circuits.**

Q: Do you have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors?

A: If not, I can install them in the proper locations to alert you in time to get out of the house.

FOR HOMES WITH EXTENSIVE ELECTRONICS OR A HOME OFFICE

First Ask Your Customers...

Then Offer Your Customers...

Q: Are you using extension cords because of an inadequate number of easily accessible receptacles?

A: If so, I can add new receptacles where needed, and replace old single-gang receptacles with new **multi-gang receptacles** that will greatly expand your power availability by replacing hazardous extension cords with safe grounded outlets.

Q: Can you enjoy your computers, printers, phones, fax, cable or satellite TV programs, or audio systems in any room of your home?

A: If not, I can install a single **structured cabling network** panel with wiring connections to room jacks and outlets that will allow you to quickly and easily connect your communications and entertainment systems—phones, PCs, Internet service, or audio/video programs—to any room location. Structured cabling can provide multi-room audio, video, intercom, Internet sharing, and more.

Q: Is your computer, phone system, TV, copier, scanner, or other home office electronic equipment, adequately protected from damaging voltage surges?

A: If not, I can install **surge protection receptacles** at the point of use that will protect each PC, printer, phone, etc. against damage. **Uninterruptible Power Source**, or **UPS** battery power supply devices also provide short-term power continuation.

FOR HOMES WITH EXTENSIVE ELECTRONICS OR A HOME OFFICE

**First Ask Your
Customers...**

**Then Offer Your
Customers...**

Q: Do you have multiple standalone PCs, printers or scanners that are each connected to a single work location?

A: If so, I can set up a **wireless router network** to allow easy sharing of all your PCs, printers, scanners, and files giving you total access to content and equipment as well as freedom of movement within the house.

Q: Is your home entertainment investment protected from power line voltage surges?

A: If not, your delicate electronics including plasma TVs, surround sound theaters, receivers, DVD decks, PCs and printers are at risk from damaging power line surges. I can easily install **surge protection devices** that will protect all your equipment with microprocessors from power surge-related damage.

FOR MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES

First Ask Your Customers...

Then Offer Your Customers...

Q: Are you using energy-efficient lighting controls in your home?

A: If not, I can replace old wall light switches with new energy-efficient **dimmer switches or occupancy sensors** that will greatly reduce your electrical consumption by reducing the overall brightness of your light sources when full brightness is not required. Dimmers help set the desired mood and also extend light bulb life.

Q: Do you frequently find lights are left on when no one is using a room?

A: If so, I can install an **occupancy/vacancy sensor** in certain rooms that will allow you to save a significant amount of energy by automatically turning lights on when a person enters the room and turning the lights off when the person leaves the room.

Q: Do all of your exterior lights remain on throughout the night?

A: If so, I can install **outdoor motion sensors or, photo cell-controlled high intensity discharge (HID) lighting** that will allow you to better control electrical utility costs by automatically turning lights on when a person enters an area such as a driveway and turning the lights off when the person leaves the area.

Q: Do you forget to turn your night-time security lights on or off?

A: If so, I can install a **wall-mounted timer** that will automatically turn lights on and turn lights off at the prescribed times as programmed. This saves energy whether you're home or not.

FOR MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES

First Ask Your Customers...

Then Offer Your Customers...

Q: Do your night-time security lights remain on during the day if you forget to turn them off?

A: If so, I can install **lighting photosensors** that will prevent outdoor lights from operating during daylight hours by automatically turning lights off when ambient light is detected. This saves energy whether you're home or not.

Q: Want to reduce your use of air conditioning and control room lighting?

A: Ceiling fans can help circulate air using less air conditioning to cool individual rooms. I can install a **dimmer and fan speed control** that allows you to lower your lights while also controlling your ceiling fan.

Q: Does your home have energy-efficient fluorescent lighting for ceiling- and wall-mounted fixtures?

A: If not, I can replace existing incandescent lighting units with new energy-efficient **fluorescent light fixtures** that will greatly reduce your electrical consumption in high-demand areas like the kitchen, living room, or home office.

A: By installing new energy-efficient compact **fluorescent light fixtures** and bulbs, you'll reduce your electrical consumption for the life of the house.

Q: Does your home use standard incandescent bulbs for exterior property lighting?

A: If so, I can install new **energy-efficient lighting fixtures** such as compact fluorescent, high-intensity discharge, metal halide, or high-pressure sodium that will substantially reduce your electrical consumption year round.

These alternative lighting options can deliver up to 10X the lumens-to-watts lighting efficiency.

FOR HOMES TO BE MORE COMFORTABLE & CONVENIENT

First Ask Your Customers...

Then Offer Your Customers...

Q: Do you have an adequate number of interior power receptacles to meet your needs?

A: Many homes don't have receptacles everywhere they are needed. I can make power available in appropriate rooms and work areas by installing **new receptacles** that add convenience to the garage, workshop, basement, family room, or kitchen areas.

Q: Do you have an adequate number of installed interior lights to meet your needs?

A: Many homes need additional lighting units in order to maximize usage of interior rooms. I can install **additional overhead, wall-mounted, or under-cabinet lighting** to make a dramatic difference in any living space.

Q: Do you have an adequate number of exterior power receptacles?

A: Many customers enjoy **outside receptacles mounted in easy-to-reach areas, such as a soffit outlet**, to provide electrical power for exterior holiday lights or for charging recreational vehicles and other outside activities near lawns, or driveways.

Q: Do you have an intercom or surveillance system for your home?

A: I can install an **entrance or wholehouse intercom system or closed-circuit TV surveillance system** that provides greater year-round security.

The NAED's Electrical Contractor Premise Audit Q&A was produced by the National Association of Electrical Distributors as a guide for use by qualified professional electrical contractors in order to help homeowner consumers improve the safety, style, comfort, convenience, and energy efficiency of their residential property.

To order more, NAED distributors can contact NAED Customer Service at 888.791.2512, or customerservice@naed.org. Contractors can order more through a participating NAED distributor.