

Basement Electrical Planning Checklist

Get the rough-in right before walls close — adding circuits later is expensive.

1. Floor Plan Decisions (Lock These First)

- ☐ Mark room divisions: living area, bath, office, gym, bar, mechanical room.
- ☐ Decide TV/entertainment wall locations.
- ☐ Decide bar / kitchenette location.
- ☐ Decide laundry / mini split / hot tub locations.

2. Outlets & Power

- ☐ Code-spaced outlets (every 12 ft on living walls).
- ☐ GFCI protection for bath, bar sink, unfinished areas.
- ☐ AFCI/dual function breakers on living-area circuits.
- ☐ Dedicated 20A circuit at TV wall.
- ☐ Dedicated circuits for bar fridge, microwave, mini split, hot tub.
- ☐ Floor outlets if you have a floating sofa or island.
- ☐ Exterior weatherproof GFCI outlet (often missed).

3. Lighting Plan

- ☐ Recessed lighting layout (see our recessed lighting guide).
- ☐ 3-way switching at stairs and major room transitions.
- ☐ Dimmers on every zone — non-negotiable for a finished basement.
- ☐ Under-stair / closet sensor lights.
- ☐ Bath vent fan + light + heat (if desired).

4. Smart / Future-Proof

- ☐ Cat6 data drops where you might want a hardwired AP, TV, or office.
- ☐ HDMI/conduit chase from TV to component cabinet.
- ☐ Smart switch neutrals at every switch box.
- ☐ Spare conduit from panel to attic for future loads.

5. Code, Permits, & Safety

- ☐ Confirm panel capacity covers all new circuits (load calc).
- ☐ Smoke + CO detectors on the new floor, interconnected.
- ☐ Egress lighting at stairs.
- ☐ Permit + rough inspection BEFORE drywall, final after trim.

Failing rough inspection means walls stay open longer. Never skip it.

If you're unsure whether to add a circuit, add it now. The cost to add it later is 5–10×.

Want a second set of eyes?

Text photos of your panel or project to **516-361-4068** and Rob will give you a quick honest opinion — no pressure, no quote pitch.