

200-Amp Service Upgrade Checklist

What to verify before scheduling a panel upgrade — so you get the right scope at a fair price.

1. Signs You Likely Need an Upgrade

- ☐ Breakers trip when you run multiple appliances.
- ☐ Lights flicker when the AC or dryer kicks on.
- ☐ Your panel is a Federal Pacific, Zinsco, Pushmatic, or 60–100A fuse panel.
- ☐ You're adding an EV charger, hot tub, mini split, or finishing a basement.
- ☐ Your panel is full and you have no slots for new circuits.

2. What to Document Before Calling

- ☐ Photo of the meter outside (utility side).
- ☐ Photo of the main panel label and the inside.
- ☐ List of new loads you plan to add over the next 5 years.
- ☐ Note any visible burn marks, rust, or double-tapped breakers.

3. Scope to Confirm in the Estimate

- ☐ New 200A meter pan and main breaker panel (not just a sub-panel).
- ☐ New service entrance cable from the weatherhead to the meter.
- ☐ New ground rods + bonding to water/gas per current code.
- ☐ Surge protective device (SPD) at the panel — strongly recommended.
- ☐ Permit fee + inspection coordination included.
- ☐ PSEG-LI coordination for power cut/reconnect handled by the electrician.

4. Timeline Expectations

- ☐ Permit pulled and PSEG-LI scheduled (typically 1–3 weeks).

- ☐ Install day: power off 4–8 hours.
- ☐ Inspection within ~1 week.
- ☐ PSEG-LI final reconnect after passed inspection.

Plan for the power-off window. Empty fridge/freezer ahead of time.

5. Questions to Ask

- ☐ Is everything to current NEC code, including ground/bond and SPD?
- ☐ Are you handling the permit AND the PSEG coordination?
- ☐ Will the new panel have room for my future loads?
- ☐ Do you offer a workmanship warranty?

If a quote comes in dramatically lower than others, ask exactly what is — and isn't — included.

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.