



ELECTRICAL | HVAC | FIRE PROTECTION

# Fergus & Elora Heritage Home Electrical Safety Guide

**A practical homeowner checklist for identifying electrical safety risks commonly found in older Ontario homes.**

Historic homes in Fergus, Elora, and Centre Wellington were often built long before modern electrical standards. This guide helps homeowners identify warning signs of outdated wiring, overloaded circuits, and potential electrical fire hazards.

Created by Motion Services  
Electrical | HVAC | Fire Protection  
Serving Fergus, Elora, and Centre Wellington



## Common Electrical Risks in Heritage Homes

### *Knob-and-Tube Wiring*

Often found in homes built before the 1950s. While it can still function, it lacks modern grounding and insulation standards.

### *Aluminum Wiring*

Used in many homes built during the 1960s and early 1970s. Aluminum expands and contracts more than copper and can loosen connections.

### *Federal Pacific & Zinsco Panels*

Older breaker panels that may fail to trip during overload conditions, creating potential fire hazards.

### *Undersized Electrical Service*

Older homes were designed for far fewer appliances. Modern homes often require larger electrical services.

### *Improper Extension Cord Use*

Older homes sometimes lack sufficient outlets, leading to unsafe extension cord usage.

These issues do not always mean your home is unsafe, but they are important indicators that a professional electrical inspection may be beneficial.



# Homeowner Electrical Safety Checklist

Use this checklist to review common electrical safety concerns found in homes built before modern electrical codes.

## *How to Use This Checklist*

0–2 issues checked: Low concern

3–5 issues checked: Moderate electrical risk

6+ issues checked: Professional electrical inspection recommended

## *Home Information*

Address:	
Year Built:	
Last Electrical Upgrade:	
Inspection Date:	

## *1. Outlets & Switches*

- Outlet covers or switch plates feel warm
- Two-prong outlets present
- Loose outlets or switches
- Burn marks or discoloration

## *2. GFCI Protection*

- GFCI outlets tested monthly
- GFCI outlets near water sources
- Outdoor outlets have weather covers

### **3. Electrical Panel**

- Panel is not Federal Pacific or Zinsco
- Breakers clearly labeled
- No rust or moisture near panel

### **4. Lighting Warning Signs**

- Lights flicker when appliances start
- Lights dim when large loads turn on
- Lights flicker during wind or storms

### **5. Extension Cord Safety**

- No cords under rugs
- Extension cords temporary only
- Power bars not overloaded

### **6. Wiring Types**

- No visible knob-and-tube wiring
- No aluminum wiring from 1960-1970 era
- Older wiring inspected by electrician

### **7. Outdoor Electrical**

- Exterior outlets in good condition
- Weatherproof covers installed
- Wiring near sheds or decks intact

### **8. Call an Electrician If You Notice**

- Burning smells near outlets
- Buzzing or crackling sounds
- Breakers constantly tripping
- Electric shocks from appliances



### **Need a Professional Electrical Safety Inspection?**

Motion Services provides professional inspections, electrical upgrades, and safety improvements for homes across Fergus, Elora, and Centre Wellington.

Scan the QR code to visit our website and learn more.

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