Dangerous Electrical Panel Identification Guide

   Many homes built between the 1950's and the 1980's have certain brands of electrical panels that were poorly made and are dangerous as evidenced by the large number of house fires they have caused. These panels are no longer made but were quite popular with builders. Millions have been installed and many remain in use in homes today. These panels can operate properly for many years, but have a high probability of failing with disastrous results.

   Use the chart below and pictures at the right to determine if your panel is safe or dangerous. Dangerous panels are like ticking time bombs waiting to destroy your home and injure your family.

   The majority of insurance companies will no longer insure homes with dangerous panels due to the fire danger. When homes are found to contain these panels (usually when being sold), insurance companies will require that they are replaced with safe, modern panels before insurance will be issued.

If you think you have one of these dangerous panels, please request a free inspection. We will verify at no charge and answer any questions you have.

Safe Panel Breakers

Breaker Handle Color	Panel Brand Name	Safety Status
Black	Challenger	See Note Below
Black	Federal Pacific/FPE, Sylvania, Zinsco	Dangerous
Black	All other brands	Safe*
Black with red tips	Federal Pacific/FPE	Dangerous
Brown	All Brands	Safe*
Green, Blue, Red	Sylvania, Zinsco	Dangerous
Green, Blue, Red	All other brands	Safe*

Note: Early models of Challenger panels used a dangerous design. The later models are safe. The dangerous models feature the words "ON" and "OFF" written vertically on the face of the breaker in raised letters. The safe version has "On" and "Off" printed horizontally. Unfortunately, most insurance companies are rejecting all challenger panels regardless of model.

* The information contained herein is a general guideline, To be sure of the safety status of your electrical panel, an individualized inspection by a qualified electrical contractor is required.

This guide is brought to you by Electrical Safety Pros LLC
a Florida State Certified electrical contractor and service electricians.
We are fully licensed, bonded and insured.

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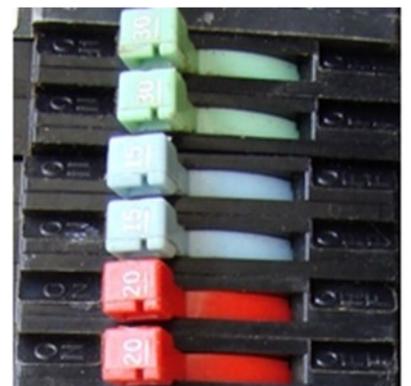License number EC13006081

Our Mission Statement
Provide the safest installation and
the best craftsmanship for a great price.

Dangerous Panel Breakers

What the experts say:

In 2011, an estimated 47,700 home and 16,400 non-home fires involved some type of electrical failure or malfunction. These fires resulted in a combined 421 civilian deaths, 1,813 civilian injuries, and $1.9 billion in direct property damage.
(National Fire Protection Association)

An electrical system should not be taken for granted. It ages and wears out the same as other parts of your home. CPSC studies of residential electrical fires show that the majority of serious fires need not have occurred. The conditions that caused the fires probably would have been detected by an electrical inspection. If your last inspection was 10 or more years ago, inspection is advisable.
(U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission - Guide to home wiring hazards)

Thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes each year.
(Electrical Safety Foundation International)

Result of an electrical panel fire.