

JP McCurdy Electric Breaks Down Common Services From an Electrician in Melrose, MA

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Homeowners often wait until something goes wrong before thinking about the wiring behind the walls. A flickering light, a breaker that keeps tripping, an outlet that stops working, these are the moments people start searching for an electrician in Melrose, MA. JP McCurdy Electric breaks down the services residential customers request most often, along with guidance on when a problem calls for a licensed professional.

Panel upgrades sit near the top of the list. Many homes in Melrose and surrounding communities were built decades ago, when households ran far fewer devices. A panel rated for 100 amps may have been plenty in the 1970s. However, modern kitchens, home offices, electric vehicle chargers, and heat pumps demand more capacity.

According to JP McCurdy Electric, signs that a panel may be undersized include breakers that trip regularly, lights that dim when large appliances turn on, and a reliance on power strips throughout the house. Upgrading to a 200-amp panel is a common solution, and the work typically requires coordination with the local utility and a municipal inspection.

Outlet and switch replacement is another frequent request. Older two-prong outlets lack grounding, and worn receptacles that no longer grip a plug firmly can pose a fire risk. Kitchens, bathrooms, garages, and outdoor areas are required by modern code to have ground-fault circuit interrupter protection. This shuts off power in a fraction of a second when it detects current leaking to ground. Arc-fault protection, now standard in bedrooms and living areas under the current code, addresses a different hazard: the tiny sparks that can occur inside damaged or aging wiring.

Lighting work rounds out the everyday jobs. Recessed lighting installations, ceiling fan replacements, and the switch from older fixtures to LED options are common. Ceiling fans, in particular, deserve attention. Hanging one from a standard light box rather than a fan-rated box is a common do-it-yourself mistake that can cause the fixture to work loose over time.

Beyond routine work, an electrician in Melrose, MA, fields a steady stream of calls about electric vehicle charging. Level 2 chargers require a dedicated 240-volt circuit, and the right setup depends on the panel's available capacity, the distance from the panel to the parking area, and the specific charger model. JP McCurdy Electric recommends a load calculation before installation to avoid overloading the existing service.

Whole-house generator hookups and transfer switches have also become increasingly popular. A transfer switch installed by a licensed professional allows a generator to safely power selected circuits. This avoids the dangerous practice of backfeeding power through a dryer outlet, a shortcut that can injure utility workers and damage equipment.

Knowing when to call for help matters as much as knowing what services exist. Warning signs that warrant prompt attention include warm or discolored outlet covers, a persistent burning smell near the panel, buzzing sounds from switches, and any breaker that will not stay reset. Aluminum branch wiring, common in homes built between the mid-1960s and mid-1970s, warrants evaluation, as connections can loosen over time and cause overheating.

Massachusetts law requires that electrical work be performed by a licensed electrician, and most projects beyond swapping a fixture also require a permit from the local wiring inspector. Permits protect homeowners twice over: once through the inspection itself, and again when it comes time to sell, since unpermitted work can complicate a real estate transaction.

Panel upgrades and outlet replacements for EV chargers and generator hookups make up the bulk of what an electrician in Melrose, MA, handles. These services, along with tripped breakers, warm outlets, and buzzing switches, help homeowners know when to call a licensed professional. The overview from JP McCurdy Electric gives homeowners a clearer picture of when a project can wait and when it calls for a licensed professional. Staying familiar with how home electrical systems age is one of the simpler ways to keep small repairs from turning into major ones.

About J.P. McCurdy Electric:

J.P. McCurdy Electric is an electrical contractor providing wiring and electrical services for residential and commercial customers. The company's electricians and management team handle a range of projects, from routine repairs and upgrades to larger installations.

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