

Expert Electrician Darrell Furgison Discusses When It's Time For an Electrical Panel Upgrade for HelloNation

OLYMPIA, WA, UNITED STATES, September 10, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- When should homeowners consider an electrical panel upgrade? A recent article in [HelloNation](#) featuring Darrell Furgison of Shocking Difference LLC provides clear guidance, pointing out the most common warning signs. His advice highlights how paying attention to issues such as tripping breakers, flickering lights, or buzzing sounds can help protect your electrical system and improve home safety.

The article explains that frequent tripping breakers are one of the most obvious signs of a problem. While breakers are designed to shut off when circuits are overloaded, repeated trips often mean the panel cannot handle the home's current demands. Modern households use more electronics, appliances, and devices than older panels were designed for, making an electrical panel upgrade or replacement a practical solution.

Another indicator is flickering lights. While brief dimming during a storm may be normal, consistent flickering when large appliances cycle on often points to a strained electrical system. If lights dim when plugging in a vacuum or running the refrigerator, the panel may no longer be distributing power properly. This is a common sign that electrical panel replacement should be considered.

Buzzing sounds from the panel are also serious warnings. A well-functioning electrical panel should operate silently. Noises such as buzzing, sizzling, or humming can signal loose connections or worn components. These conditions raise the risk of overheating and fire,



Darrell Furgison

making an inspection by a licensed electrician essential.

Warm panel covers provide another red flag. According to the HelloNation feature, panel surfaces should never feel hot to the touch. Heat often indicates resistance in the wiring, which quickly becomes a safety concern if ignored. A professional electrician can test the panel, determine the cause, and recommend whether repairs or an electrical panel upgrade is the safest solution.

The article also notes that limited breaker space is a common reason for upgrades. Many older homes were built with panels that cannot accommodate today's needs. Additions such as hot tubs, electric vehicle chargers, or home theaters all require new circuits. If the existing panel is full, an electrical panel replacement allows homeowners to expand capacity safely.

Age is another factor. Panels generally last 25 to 40 years, but many homes in Olympia still use outdated models that no longer meet safety codes. Replacing older equipment not only supports modern technology but also strengthens overall home safety. In some cases, insurance companies may even require panel upgrades to maintain coverage or lower premiums.

Frequent power surges are also linked to panel problems. While some surges come from lightning or utility issues, repeated surges can result from a failing electrical panel. These surges can damage appliances, reduce the lifespan of electronics, and create hidden hazards. Upgrading to a modern panel with surge protection helps prevent these issues.

Homeowners planning renovations are advised to think ahead. Adding new appliances, finishing a basement, or expanding square footage can overload an already limited panel. A licensed electrician should evaluate whether the electrical system can support these changes before projects begin. This ensures renovations run safely and efficiently.

The HelloNation article emphasizes that electrical panels are critical for home safety, even if they are often overlooked. Warning signs like flickering lights, buzzing sounds, or warm panel covers should never be ignored. A professional inspection identifies risks early, helping homeowners avoid costly damage and reduce fire hazards.

In the end, the need for an electrical panel upgrade comes down to safety and performance. Breakers that trip frequently, panels that heat up, or systems that surge repeatedly are signs of stress within the electrical system. With the help of a licensed electrician, homeowners can determine whether an electrical panel replacement is necessary to protect both their property and their peace of mind.

The full article, titled "[Signs You Need an Electrical Panel Upgrade](#)", features expert insights from Darrell Furgison of Shocking Difference LLC. His advice shows Olympia homeowners how to recognize issues early and maintain strong home safety with a reliable electrical system.

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