



If you own an older home (built before 1990), you might have one of these outdated main electric panels/boxes hiding in your home.

Federal Pacific Electric (FPE) / Federal Pioneer or Stab-lok Panels

Why they're unsafe: FPE electric panels' circuit breakers fail to trip when they should (when there's a short circuit or circuit overload).

There are also many reports that FPE circuits in the off position still send power to the circuit. This can cause electrocution when working on a circuit you believe to be off

Zinsco or GTE-Sylvania panels

Why they're unsafe: The circuit breakers inside many Sylvania panels melt to the main 'bus bar'. This means the breaker can't ever trip, even when there's a short or overloaded circuit. So, if there ever is a short or other problems, the surge of power melts wires and starts fires in your home.

The name **Zinsco** anywhere on the panel is a sure sign it should be replaced. Also, many **GTE-Sylvania** or **Sylvania** panels are simply re-branded Zinsco panels or contain the problem Zinsco design. These should also be replaced.

Fuse box

Why they're unsafe: Fuses aren't inherently unsafe. They work just like circuit breakers (except they can't be reset and must be replaced.) However, most fuse boxes in homes today are unsafe because they've been modified to try to serve today's energy demands.

Problems in many fuse boxes that make them unsafe:

- Placing too many things on a single circuit.
- Replacing a fuse with a bigger fuse.
- Replacing the fuse with something metal.

What to do if you have one of these panels

If you have one of these unsafe and outdated electrical panels, it is highly recommended that you have it replaced. At the very least, you should have an electrician inspect the panel to see if there are any signs of problems.

For more information, contact MCC Electric at www.mccelectric.ca/contact-mcc or **(506)651-5168**