

PROS OF ELECTRICAL PLANS

Electrical plans are used for both residential and commercial construction projects. They show the complete power layout for the job and are often necessary in order to obtain a building permit. It is recommended that you have an electrical plan for your building, primarily for two reasons:

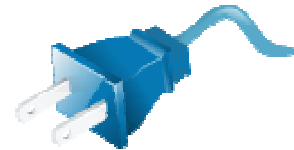
- The electrician's job will be made easier by having pre-determined placement of boxes and circuit paths.
- You can reference the plans should you need to troubleshoot future electrical problems after construction is complete.

Requirements of electrical plans:



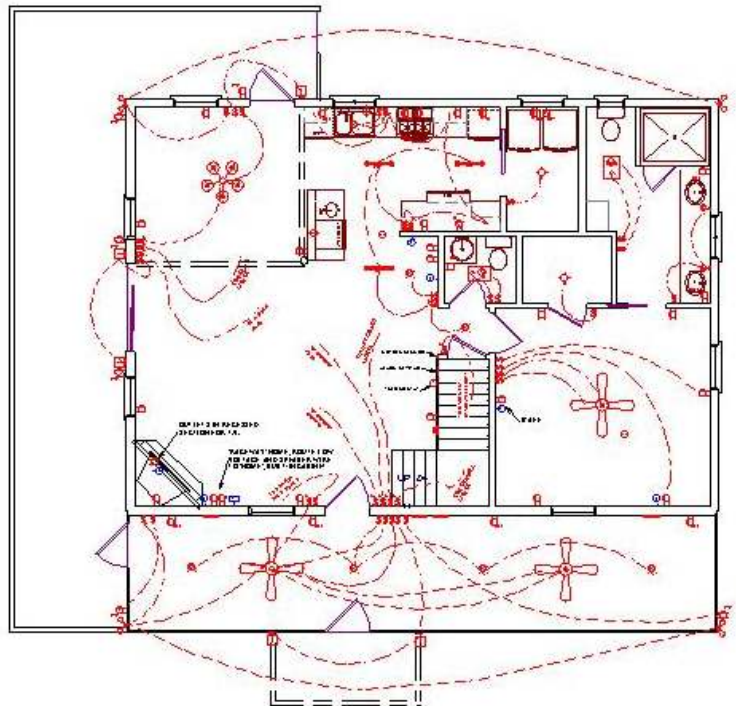
All drawings must comply with the National Electrical Code. The following are typical of a set of electrical plans.

- Outlet type and location
- Conduit size and type
- Switches, wiring, circuits and voltage
- Light fixture locations, brand and model numbers
- Exhaust fan location (bathrooms & kitchens)
- Television and phone hook-ups
- Smoke detector locations



In regards to the National Electric Code, there are certain requirements that must be taken into consideration on every home or commercial building. Some examples are listed below.

- *Smoke detectors*: required in each bedroom and at each additional story and basement.
- *Exterior outlets*: at least one weatherproof outlet must be installed at the front and back of each home. All exterior outlets must also be GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) rated, meaning that the circuit will trip if there is any irregularity in the current.
- *Interior outlets*: must be placed in any wall over 2-ft. in length.
 - *Kitchen, laundry, and bathrooms*: must be GFCI rated.
 - *Garages and outbuildings*: must be GFCI rated.
- *Hallways*: ceiling lights should be placed no more than 12-ft. apart with a switch controlling them from each end of the hall.
- *Stairs*: one ceiling light should be placed at each floor or landing, along with additional lights as needed so to provide adequate lighting.
- *Garages*: one ceiling light is needed for every two vehicles, but more may be placed if desired.
- *Bath and laundry room*: should have proper ventilation to the outdoors.
- *Exterior lighting*: should be placed so to properly illuminate sidewalks, driveways, porches, deck, and other well-use areas.



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