



Replacement of Residential Main Electrical Service Requirements

The Rohnert Park Municipal Code modifies the California Electrical Code (CEC) to include additional requirements for residential main electrical service replacement or upgrade. The service disconnecting means for one or two family dwellings, including townhomes, **may require upgrades when:**

1. The existing main service enclosure, bus bars, main service disconnecting means or any combination of these components is manufactured by Federal Pacific or Zinsco, including such panels that have been rebranded (e.g. Zinsco/Sylvania).
2. Five (5) or more circuits are modified.
3. Any secondary power source is added.
4. An addition increases the existing gross floor area by 50% or more.
5. A remodel, alteration or repair to an existing building includes demolition, removal or repair of more than 50% of the structure.

To implement the Municipal Code, projects that could trigger a Main Electrical Service Panel (MSP) replacement/upgrade will be reviewed on "serviceability" basis. "Serviceability" will be determined by the results of an inspection of the existing MSP by a certified, licensed electrician, at owner's expense. The results of the serviceability inspection shall be provided in writing to the City and shall be attached to the permanent permit record for the property. If the existing MSP is found to be serviceable by a certified, licensed electrician, the project may proceed without upgrades to the MSP.

Should the serviceability inspection indicate that the MSP requires replacement or upgrade, please be aware of the following requirements.

- The premise's electrical system shall be grounded by one of the methods specified in California Electrical Code (CEC), current edition.
- An existing concrete encased electrode may be reused if it complies with the current CEC and is verifiable/ accessible by Building Inspector at time of Electric Meter Release inspection.
- The installation shall include bonding of the existing water and gas piping as required by the current CEC.
- An intersystem bonding termination will be provided as required by the current CEC, unless exceptions apply.
- The installation may include arc-fault circuit interrupter protection for all outlets as required by the current CEC.
- All new electrical equipment must be listed/approved for use as "service" equipment.
- The installation of new electrical equipment including but not limited to the MSP must be performed by a qualified person. The Building Official may require that the work be performed by a certified licensed electrical contractor.