RECONNECTING AN INACTIVE SERVICE

The goal is a service that is safe to turn on: no hazards, damage, deterioration or unpermitted work. It is not an upgrade to current code. Check every box before you call for inspection. Page 1: service, meter, grounding and panel.

1 WHERE THE WIRES COME IN

- ☐ The point where the utility wires attach to the house is solid and rated for the pull of the wires (500 lb). **ESB 750**
- ☐ Mast pipe is straight, supported and undamaged. Roof flashing is intact.
- ☐ Weatherhead (the cap at the top) is intact. Wires dip below it in a drip loop so rain doesn't run in.
- ☐ Service cable or pipe has no cracked or sun-damaged jacket and no damage. Straps are in place.
- ☐ Wires from the pole still clear trees, additions, decks and pools by the required distance. **NEC, ESB 750**
- ☐ Underground service: riser, conduit and pull box are intact. No exposed wires.

2 METER SOCKET

- ☐ Box is undamaged and weathertight. No water or corrosion inside.
- ☐ Jaws (the clips that grip the meter) are tight and undamaged. No arcing, heat discoloration or melting.
- ☐ No jumpers, tampering or bypass. Bypass is not allowed on residential service up to 200 A. **ESB 750**
- ☐ Socket is utility-approved and the correct type. Ring and cover are in place. **ESB 750**
- ☐ Meter can be reached for reading and is protected from damage.
- ☐ Wires from the pole and to the house are tight and on the correct terminals. Neutral is bonded as required.

3 GROUNDING & BONDING

- ☐ Ground wire runs unbroken to the ground rods, is the right size and is protected from damage.
- ☐ Ground rods, concrete-encased (Ufer) ground or other electrodes are present. Clamps are intact and listed for the job.
- ☐ Water pipe is bonded to the ground system. Check for cut-out pieces or plastic (PEX) that replaced metal pipe, which breaks the connection.
- ☐ Gas piping is bonded where required. Flexible yellow gas tubing (CSST) is bonded per the manufacturer.
- ☐ Neutral and ground are tied together at the main service disconnect only, nowhere else.

4 MAIN PANEL & DISCONNECT

- ☐ Main disconnect is present, works and is labeled.
- ☐ Inner panel cover (dead front) is in place. No open knockouts or missing filler plates.
- ☐ No water, rust, rodent nests or debris inside.
- ☐ No heat damage, scorched metal bars or loose lugs.
- ☐ Every breaker matches the size of its wire. Nothing is oversized.
- ☐ No two wires under one breaker screw unless the breaker is listed for it. No two neutrals under one screw.
- ☐ Subpanels: neutrals are isolated from grounds, grounds are bonded, and the feeder is four-wire.
- ☐ Known problem equipment is flagged: Federal Pacific Stab-Lok, Zinsco, recalled or counterfeit breakers.
- ☐ Clear working space and access in front of the panel.
- ☐ Circuit directory (the list of what each breaker feeds) is there and readable.

Sources: National Grid ESB 750-2025 (service and metering); NFPA 73 (premises); 2023 NEC.

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Page 2: wiring, testing and getting ready to turn the power on.

5 WIRING & DEVICES IN THE HOUSE

- [ ] No missing or cut wiring (scrappers and copper thieves) and no bare wire ends sticking out.
- [ ] No open splices. Every splice is inside a box with a cover.
- [ ] Box covers are on. No missing or broken outlets or switches.
- [ ] No freeze, water or fire damage anywhere you can see.
- [ ] No obvious unpermitted or amateur work.
- [ ] Hard-wired appliances (furnace, water heater, well pump) are either disconnected or checked and safe.
- [ ] Smoke and CO alarms are in place if the local code office requires them before the house is lived in again.

6 TESTING

Do these after a long vacancy or any water getting in.

- [ ] Insulation resistance (megger) test on the service and feeders. Write down the reading: _____ MΩ at _____ V.
- [ ] Same test on the worst branch circuit. Reading: _____ MΩ.
- [ ] No connection between neutral and ground anywhere past the main service disconnect.

7 READY FOR THE POWER

- [ ] Main disconnect is OFF and tagged so the utility can set the meter. **National Grid requirement**
- [ ] Branch breakers are OFF, or only circuits that have been checked are left ON.
- [ ] Owner has been told to turn circuits on one at a time and to report any problem (buzzing, burning smell, tripping, warm covers).

ANYTHING THAT FAILS

Fix it and have it checked again before the power goes on. Don't energize the service until every item above is resolved. Note anything you couldn't get to or couldn't see so the inspector knows.

ALARMS

Smoke and CO alarm locations are subject to approval by the local authority having jurisdiction, code enforcement.

Sources: National Grid ESB 750-2025 (service and metering); NFPA 73 (premises); 2023 NEC.