



A History of GFCIs

With electrical systems, no device has had as much impact on protecting persons from shock hazards as the Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI).

GFCIs are electrical devices designed to detect ground faults. Ground faults occur when electrical current is “leaking” somewhere outside of the path where the current is supposed to flow. If your body provides the path to ground for this leakage, you could be burned, or even electrocuted. The GFCI constantly monitors electricity glowing in a circuit to sense any imbalance in the current. If the current going into the circuit differs by even a small amount from that returning, the GFCI switches off the power to that circuit.

The list of required locations for GFCIs expands with each edition of the National Electrical Code.

Currently GFCIs are required by law to be in homes built to comply with the present National Electrical Code. **GFCI protection is required for all outdoor receptacles, all bathroom receptacles, garage wall receptacles, all kitchen counter top receptacles and receptacles in crawl spaces. The list below indicates the year and location of when and where all GFCIs are required, to date.**

Year	Location
1971	Swimming Pool Lights
1971	Receptacles within 15 feet of interior walls of pools
1973	Outdoors (Residential)
1974	Construction Sites
1975	Fountain Equipment
1975	Bathrooms
1978	Garages
1981	Spas
1984	Replacement of non-grounded receptacles
1987	Hydro Massage Tubs
1987	Kitchen Counter Receptacles within 6 ft of sink
1987	Unfinished Basements
1990	Crawl Spaces
1990	Walk thru Sensor Installed
1993	Wet Bars
1996	Unfinished Accessory Buildings Accessible from Grade
1996	All Kitchen Counter Receptacles
2005	Laundry and Utility Sinks