

Florence Energy News

USE A GROUND-FAULT CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER WITH EVERY POWER TOOL

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends the use of a ground-fault circuit-interrupter (GFCI) with every power tool to protect against electrical shock hazards. Each year, CPSC learns of approximately 20 to 30 electrocution deaths associated with power drills, saws, sanders, hedge trimmers, and other electric power tools. Most of these deaths could be prevented by the use of a GFCI.

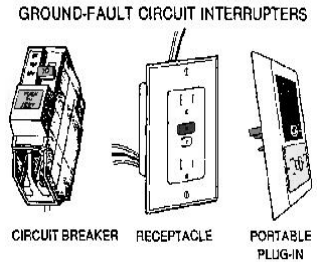


A GFCI constantly monitors current flowing in a circuit to sense any loss of current. If the current flowing through two circuit conductors differs by a very small amount, the GFCI instantly

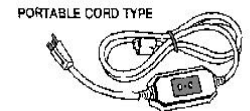
interrupts the current flow to prevent a lethal amount of electricity from reaching the consumer. The consumer may feel a painful shock but will not be electrocuted. Grounding may provide some protection for power equipment, and double insulation of newer power tools presents lower risks of electrocution. However, GFCIs are the most effective means for protecting consumers against electrical shock hazards.

Since 1973, homes built according to the National Electrical Code have varying degrees of GFCI protection. GFCIs were first required in outdoor receptacle circuits in 1973, bathrooms in 1975, garage wall outlets in 1978, some kitchen receptacles since 1987, and all receptacle outlets in unfinished basements and crawl spaces since 1990.

Three common types of GFCIs are available for home use: circuit breaker, receptacle, and portable types.



The circuit breaker type needs to be installed by an electrician. The receptacle type may be installed by knowledgeable consumers familiar with electrical wiring practices. The portable GFCI needs no special knowledge to install.



Just plug the portable GFCI into a wall receptacle and then plug the electric power tool into the GFCI. It is generally priced below \$30 and is available at hardware stores, building supply centers, and electrical supply houses.

Use a GFCI whenever you use a power tool, to prevent electrocution.

PROJECT HELP

This holiday season consider a gift for someone in need.

You can help provide warmth and light for the elderly, disabled, or those on low fixed incomes by participating in Project Help.

In 2006, the City of Florence Utilities collected a total of \$45,836 from customers who wanted to help. Your 2006 contributions helped 912 customers!



If you would like to contribute to Project Help, simply **sign** the authorization form, indicate the **amount** you would like to help, and **return** your completed form with your utility payment to the City of Florence Utilities.

This amount for Project Help will be included on your monthly utility bill until you ask that it be removed.

(If you feel you could benefit from this program, visit the Help Center at 621 S. Court Street, Florence, AL.)

ATTENTION

FLORENCE UTILITIES WILL BE CLOSED
THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

NOVEMBER 12

VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 22-23

THANKSGIVING

DECEMBER 24-25

CHRISTMAS

Project Help

P.O. Box 877 · Florence, AL 35631

Yes, I wish to contribute to Project Help.

You are authorized to add a minimum of \$1.00 or \$_____ to my Florence Utilities bill each month until I notify you to discontinue this authorization.

Name_____

(As it appears on the account—Please Print)

Signature_____

Address_____

Account #_____

Telephone #_____

- ◆ Your Gift of Warmth and Light is Tax Deductible.
- ◆ The City of Florence Utilities serves only as the collection service for this fund.
- ◆ Every dollar given to Project Help will go through the Help Center.
- ◆ Project Help contributions are not used to pay Help Center workers or any other expenses.

November, 2007
Volume 7, No. 3

Florence ENERGY

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM FLORENCE UTILITIES

This holiday season consider a gift for someone in need. You can help provide warmth and light for the elderly, disabled, or those on low fixed incomes by participating in Project Help. If you would like to contribute to this program, please complete the form inside and mail in with your utility bill payment.

Also, in this issue is information about the Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter (GFCI). The GFCI is designed to protect people from severe or fatal electric shocks. Check out the article inside about the types of GFCIs that are available.

Please be sure to look over the Florence Utilities holiday closing schedule inside, and may you have a blessed holiday season.

www.florenceutilities.com