

The information herein is the most common for how to obtain the necessary permits for your project and is not representative of all the conditions you may encounter.

Contact and locate us...

Building Development Agencies

The Herrity Building

12055 Government Center Pkwy
Fairfax, VA 22035

- ▶ Permit Application Center
2nd floor, 703-222-0801
- ▶ Site & Addressing Center
2nd floor, 703-222-0801
- ▶ Building Plan Review
3rd floor, 703-222-0114
- ▶ Zoning Review
2nd floor, 703-222-1082
- ▶ Residential Inspections
6th floor, 703-631-5101

Hours of Operation

Monday–Thursday: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Friday: 9:15 a.m.–4 p.m.

Health Department

10777 Main Street
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-246-2201

All telephone numbers are accessible in TTY by calling 711.

This document is available in alternative formats and languages. Please call 703-324-5033, TTY 711 for more information.



A Fairfax County, Virginia Publication



Ground fault circuit interrupters and arc fault circuit interrupters are electrical devices which protect against electric shock or fire. This publication provides recommendations and guidelines for installing GFCI and AFCI devices in residential dwellings.

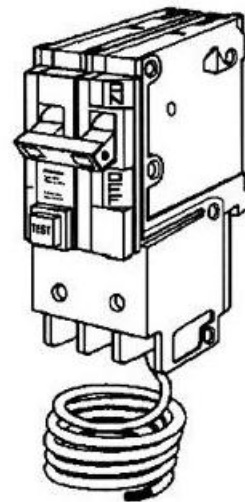
Publications, forms and other useful information can be found online at

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/buildingpermits

GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS

Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) reduce the hazards of electrical shock and electrocution. GFCI protection must be installed near sources of water in or near the following locations:.

- ▶ Kitchen counter tops.
- ▶ Bathrooms.
- ▶ Unfinished basement storage rooms.
- ▶ Garages.
- ▶ Outdoors.
- ▶ Crawl spaces.
- ▶ Swimming pools.
- ▶ Spas or hot tubs.
- ▶ Laundry, utility and wet bar sinks.
- ▶ Boat houses.



How can I recognize a GFCI?

GFCI outlets have “Test” and “Reset” buttons. Some outlets can be GFCI-protected and yet have no test button. In this case, the entire circuit is protected by a GFCI circuit breaker which will have similar “Test” and “Reset” buttons.



How a GFCI Works

A GFCI outlet or circuit breaker is designed to detect changes in the balance of current to and from an appliance or circuit. When the current-in does not match the current-out, the GFCI will shut itself off and will not reset until it no longer detects the difference in current.

Preventing Electrical Shock

The hazards of electric shock are greatly reduced with GFCI. Data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission shows a 55 percent reduction in the number of electrocutions since GFCI introduction.

Is your house built prior to

1971?

If your home was built prior to 1971 when GFCI protection was first required, it is recommended that you install GFCI outlets in the areas listed on Page 1. You may even protect numerous outlets by having a GFCI circuit breaker installed.

ARC FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS

Hazardous arc fault is a bright, high power discharge of electricity between two or more wires and a potential for fire. Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCI) greatly reduce arc fault. AFCI protection is required in all residential sleeping areas. Although not required by the building code, AFCI protection is recommended throughout the rest of your home.

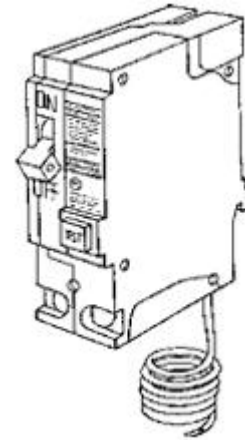
How AFCI Works

The AFCI circuit breaker's unique circuitry can detect the difference between safe and unsafe arcing. The device allows the safe arcing to occur and preventing the unsafe arcing.

dollars in damage. An AFCI can be a another tool to help prevent these tragedies by stopping a fire before it starts.

Should I install AFCI?

All new homes and additions since 2008 require AFCI in sleeping rooms only. AFCI can prevent fires in all rooms of all homes, especially those with aging wiring. Fairfax County recommends their installation throughout the home.



Preventing Electrical Fire

AFCI protection greatly reduces the potential of fires in residential wiring. According to the United States Fire Administration, there are approximately 67,800 electrical fires in homes annually that have caused thousands of deaths and billions of

How can I recognize an AFCI?

AFCI protection is usually provided by a circuit breaker in your panel box and can be recognizable by the presence of a "Test" button.

