

According to OSHA, a GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) “is a fast-acting circuit breaker designed to shut off electric power in the event of a ground-fault within as little as 1/40 of a second.” The ground fault occurs as a result of “leaking electricity.”

OSHA Standard 1910.333(a) states that *safety-related work practices shall be employed to prevent electric shock or other injuries resulting from either direct or indirect electrical contacts, when work is performed near or on equipment or circuits which are or may be energized. The specific safety-related work practices shall be consistent with the nature and extent of the associated electrical hazards.*

- From a small kitchen lobby in an office building to an industrial food plant, when using electrical equipment or extension cords near a water source they should be plugged into an outlet that is GFCI protected.
- When operating machine pumps, welding equipment, or other high energy producing equipment or tools, an industrial GFCI should be used.
- Always test GFCIs before use by using the test and reset buttons. If found defective do not use that GFCI.
- Inspect all tools and equipment before use, if ground pin is missing do not use.

OSHA Standard 1910.304(b)(3)(i) *Cord sets and receptacles in wet environments can potentially expose employees to severe ground-fault hazards. Therefore, in a built environment (non-construction) OSHA requires ground-fault circuit protection for all 125-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere receptacles installed in bathrooms and on rooftops.*



Never take electricity for granted! No matter how small the job, always use safe work practices, especially when using electrical tools and equipment.

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