

GFCI — Electric Shock Protection

While you are fixing that leaky washing machine, replacing a light bulb over the sink or sanding a rusty fender, keep in mind that electric shock is a very serious business — it can kill.

If there is damage to an appliance or its cord, electricity could stray from where it is supposed to be going and get outside creating a shock hazard. If you happen to be on wet ground or touch a faucet while holding that appliance, for example, it could prove deadly.

This stray current is known as a ground fault, and the best way to protect against it is to install a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI).

The GFCI responds rapidly to ground faults by cutting off the current, which may save your life. A ground fault can result from damage to the cord or appliance, poorly insulated wires or mis-handling (such as dropping the appliance into water).

Normally, when the amount of current running through an electric appliance exceeds the wire's current carrying limits, the circuit will be overloaded and a fuse or circuit breaker will shut off the power. However, a dangerous ground fault can be much lower than the regular current and not trip the fuse or circuit breaker.

Since even a small amount of stray electricity, like that of a tiny Christmas tree light, can prove fatal to a normally healthy adult, the GFCI can help prevent serious consequences. It is specifically designed to detect ground faults.

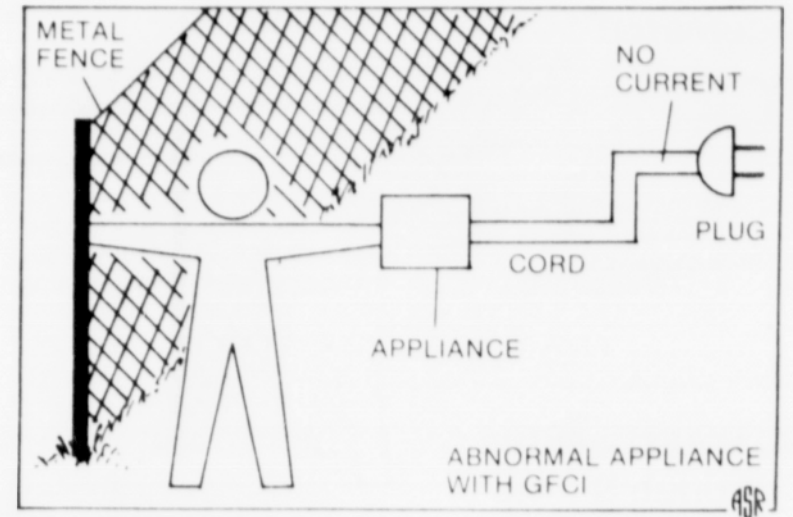
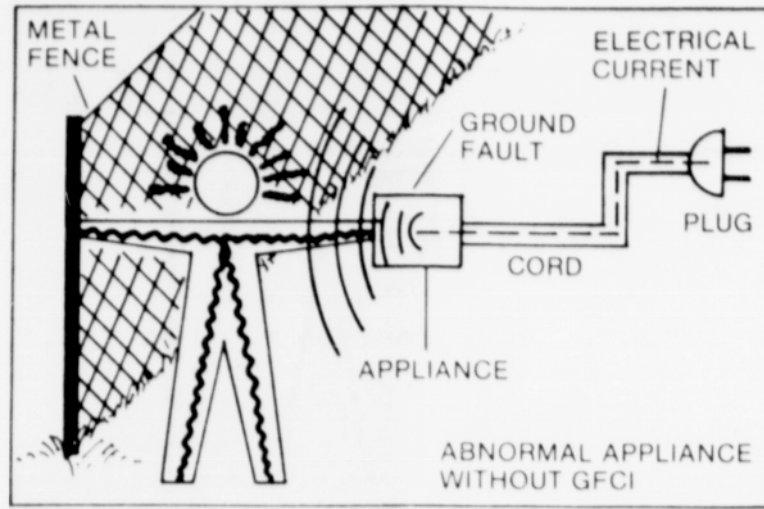
Underwriters Laboratories, a leader in product safety analysis and testing for nearly a century, recommends GFCIs for the home or office, and offers the following information regarding their use:

- There are two basic types of GFCIs:
 - Receptacle types, which protect only what is plugged into that receptacle (though some of these can be connected to protect other receptacles "down stream" on the same circuit).
 - Circuit breaker types, which protect appliances in the entire circuit.
- Choose the one that best fits your needs.
- When you buy a GFCI be sure that it bears the label of a nationally recognized testing organization such as Underwriters Laboratories.
- Unless you are using a plug in type GFCI, it should only be installed by a qualified electrician, not an amateur.
- GFCIs should be installed to protect outlets outdoors, in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and laundry rooms where there is a greater risk of getting shocked.
- If you have a swimming pool with a GFCI, have an electrician check its installation to see that it meets the latest

safety protection requirements applicable in your community.

- Once you have a GFCI installed, it does not mean that you can ignore normal electrical safety procedures:
 - worn cords should be replaced
 - damaged appliances should be professionally examined and repaired
 - all appliances should be unplugged when not in use.
- Fuses and circuit breakers are still necessary for wire and circuit protection. GFCIs detect only potentially hazardous ground faults and do not provide protection against overloads or other electrical mishaps.
- Follow all of the manufacturer's instructions for periodic testing, maintenance and use.

The presence of GFCIs in your home or work place, combined with these common sense safety tips, gives you and your family added protection from the risks of electric shock.



Without a GFCI, electrical current can leak out of an abnormal appliance creating a potentially deadly risk.

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El Salvador Students visit PSU

Two student representatives from the University of El Salvador will be speaking at the Portland State University Smith Center, Room 294-296, on Friday, Nov. 8 at 12:00 noon. The Portland visit is part of a tour which will include 30 campuses in seven western states between Oct. 10 and Nov. 20. The Salvadoran students are addressing university communities in the United States to publicize the efforts of students, professors, administrators and workers to ensure full funding for the University of El Salvador and an end to the repression directed against it. Their tour and their work in El Salvador are part of an overall effort at the University to bring peace and justice to the war-torn country.

The two students are Antonio Quezada, President of the General Association of Salvadoran University Students (AGEUS), and Rodolfo Rosales, Vice President of the AGEUS. Mr. Quezada is studying agronomy, Mr. Rosales is a medical student. Their visit offers students in this country a rare opportunity to share information about education in the U.S. and El Salvador.

In 1980, the University of El Salvador was partially destroyed and shut down by military invasion and occupation. The campus remained closed for four years, reopening in May of 1984. The University community, however, continues to be the target of severe repression, as evidenced by recent arrests of dozens of students and professors. Both of the visiting students, Mr. Quezada and Mr. Rosales, appeared on a death squad hit list published in the San Salvador daily *La Prensa Grafica* on July 12, 1985.

The AGEUS tour visit to Portland has been sponsored by the Portland State University student group, Central America Study and Action, and by the Portland Central America Solidarity Committee.

Girl Scouts sell 1986 calendars

Looking for an inexpensive holiday gift item that's sure to please? The Girl Scouts are offering both wall and pocket planner size calendars for \$2 each through Nov. 27, 1985. The wall-size calendar features beautiful four-color photographs of Girl Scouts and their activities. Both calendars offer time zone and national holiday information plus ample space for writing in appointments. Proceeds from the sale of calendars help troops finance their yearly program. To get your 1986 Girl Scout calendar, ask a Girl Scout or call Columbia River Girl Scout Council (503)224-6560.





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