

NEC® Updates: A look at Ground and Arc Fault Protection Requirements

A brief overview of the history of Ground and Arc Fault protection mandates under the NEC.



Year	Timeline of GFCI Requirements
1968	Underwater swimming pool lights
1971	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Receptacles within 15 feet of pool walls - All equipment used with storable swimming pools
1973	All outdoor receptacles
1975	Bathrooms, fountain equipment
1978	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Garages - Outdoor receptacles above 6 feet - 6 inches from grade exempted
1981	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spas, hot tubs (within 10 feet) - Hydro-massage tubs (within 5 feet)
1984	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replacement of non-grounding receptacles with no grounding conductor allowed - Pool cover motors - Distance of GFCI protection extended to 20 feet from pool walls
1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unfinished basements - Hydrotherapy bathtubs - Kitchen countertop receptacles within 6 feet of sink - Boathouses
1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crawlspace - Exception for sump pumps or other dedicated equipment
1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wet bar countertops within 6 feet of sink - Any receptacle replaced in an area presently requiring GFCI
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All kitchen countertop outlets (not just within 6 feet) - All Exterior receptacles except dedicated deicing tape receptacles - Unfinished accessory buildings at or below grade
1999	Exemption for dedicated equipment in crawlspace removed
2003	Smart-Lock type GFCI receptacles required
2005	All receptacles at Bar sink/laundry sink/prep sink within 6 feet of outside edge
2008	All receptacles in garage (exceptions removed)
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laundry room receptacles - All receptacles regardless of sink present - If not, must be GFCI protected - Dishwashers - All receptacles within 6 feet of the outside edge of any sink - Receptacles under sinks - Receptacles for each car space in a dwelling's garage with electric power - Branch circuit serving these receptacles shall not supply outlets outside of the garage - All 15 and 20 amp receptacles in dwelling unit laundry areas are required to be GFCI protected



Year	Timeline of AFCI Requirements
1999	- Listed AFCI future requirement in Code - Allows Branch/Feeder AFCI
January 1, 2002	Bedroom receptacles
2002	- ALL bedroom circuits - Allows Branch/Feeder AFCI
2005	- Combination Type AFCI in bedroom circuits - Branch/Feeder AFCI permitted until January 1, 2008
2008	- Combination Type AFCI - Expand to 1 pole, 15-20A circuits installed in bedrooms, family rooms, living rooms, parlors, libraries, dens, sunrooms, recreation rooms, closets or similar rooms
2011	- Combination Type AFCI - 15-20A circuits installed in family rooms, dining rooms, living rooms, parlors, libraries, dens, bedrooms, sunrooms, recreation rooms, closets, hallways, or similar rooms or areas
2014	AFCI protection is required in all kitchen areas and laundry areas
2017	All 120-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere branch circuits supplying outlets or devices installed in dwelling unit kitchens, family rooms, dining rooms, living rooms, parlors, libraries, dens, bedrooms, sunrooms, recreation rooms, closets, hallways, laundry areas, or similar rooms or areas

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