

2017 NEC Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does the new requirement for GFCI's in other-than-dwelling units in NEC 210.8(B) apply to all *receptacles* that are connected to branch circuits rated 150-volts to ground or less? Or does it only apply if the receptacle device has a rating of 150 volts to ground or less?

Answer: The requirement applies to all receptacles connected to **branch circuits** rated 150-volts to ground or less.



New code rules have expanded the GFCI requirements to include other-than 15- and 20-amp 125-volt applications and now apply to all single-phase receptacles ≤ 150 volts and ≤ 50 amps and three-phase receptacles ≤ 150 volts and ≤ 100 amps.

When locations in Chapters 5, 6 & 7 of the NEC address GFCI requirements for receptacles, only those receptacles will require GFCI protection

2. With the measurement point for a peninsula counter top changing from “connecting edge” to the “connected perpendicular wall”, can a receptacle on the wall above the countertop serve as both the required counter space and the peninsula receptacle?

Answer: Yes

Until now, NEC 210.52(C)(3) stated that the measurement was to be taken from the point where the peninsula countertop mated with the wall countertop which meant that at least one receptacle was required to be installed on every peninsula.

Changing how the long dimension of the peninsula countertop is measured allows a receptacle outlet on the connecting wall to meet the requirement for a receptacle at the peninsula. No additional receptacle(s) would be required on the peninsula regardless of length.



- 3. NEC 210.11(C)(4) states that one 20-amp branch circuit shall be installed for the garage receptacles. If one 20-amp branch circuit dedicated for garage receptacles is installed, could additional receptacles be installed on a 15-amp or another 20-amp branch circuit?**

Answer: Yes



In NEC 210.11, the code is very clear about the minimum requirements for 20 amp circuits in a dwelling. In this case, if one 20-amp branch circuit is installed for the garage receptacle(s), the code requirement has been met. Additional branch circuits feeding additional receptacles in the garage - regardless of the amp rating – is acceptable.

The 20-amp branch circuit for garage receptacle(s) required in NEC 210.11(c)(4) cannot serve other outlets inside the dwelling. However the new exception permits the 20-amp circuit to also supply readily accessible outdoor receptacle outlets.

- 4. NEC 406.12 has been expanded to include business offices, corridors, waiting rooms and the like in clinics, medical and dental offices and outpatient facilities. Do the business offices (i.e. doctor or administrative offices) used in hospitals, clinics and dental care facilities where children are not likely to congregate, require tamper resistant receptacles?**

Answer: No

In the 2017 NEC, TR receptacles were further expanded to business offices, corridors, waiting rooms and the like in clinics, medical and dental offices and outpatient facilities. When introduced, tamper resistant (TR) receptacles were required for the 15-20 amp, 125 volt receptacles in dwelling units. The original substantiation for justifying the TR receptacles was from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) which stated that from 1991-2001, over 24,000 children were injured when they inserted foreign objects into energized receptacles.

The code making panel, staying true to the original substantiation, stated, “The panel has extended the use of TR type receptacles in other locations that a child may occupy, including preschools and elementary education facilities, business offices, corridors, waiting rooms and the like in clinics, medical and dental offices and outpatient facilities..... and dormitories”. TR receptacles will only be required in those areas (offices, corridors, waiting rooms, etc.) within health care facilities where children are likely to congregate or occupy. See NEC 517.19 for the TR requirements in designated general care pediatric locations.