

Ring in 2019!

A WISER, SAFER CHOICE!

NORTHSTAR ELECTRICAL SERVICES

PENNSYLVANIA * NEW JERSEY * DELAWARE

FREE DINNER

Respond to this email and we will enter you in our drawing for a \$50 gift card to your choice of restaurants or other gift card choice*. Good luck!

Congratulations to December's Winner:

Bethany Nordin

Commercial Solutions, Inc.

Respond by January 15th to be entered.

* PF Chang's, Maggiano's, Chili's, Cheesecake Factory, The Capital Grille, Legal Seafood, Season's 52, California Pizza Kitchen, Ruth Chris's Steakhouse, Flemings Prime Steakhouse, Home Depot, Barnes & Noble, Nike, Zappos.

Happy Northstar anniversary to Dave & Julie!



Please join us in welcoming our new staff member, Justin!



When Should I Use a GFCI?

The questions of when and why should I use a GFCI tend to come up often in our business. Where and when should a GFCI be installed?

Let's start with what is a GFCI?

A GFCI is a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter, or a Residual Current Device (RCD). It is a receptacle that usually has a small button on it that says "Test" and "Reset". It shuts off an electric power circuit when it detects that the current is flowing in a way it is not meant to. A "ground-fault" is an unintentional flow of electricity between a source of electrical current and a grounded surface. Without protection, electrical shock can occur if a person comes into contact with an energized part.

A GFCI receptacle constantly monitors the electrical circuit. If it detects even a slight flow of electricity to a grounded item, it immediately shuts off the flow of electricity, thus protecting people from electrocution. It is particularly important to protect people where they could come in contact with exposed grounded items such as plumbing fixtures.



When and where are GFCI receptacles required?

The National Electrical Code (or NEC for short) has specific GFCI requirements for dwelling units. Article 210.8 states that ground-fault circuit-interrupters shall be used for all 125-volt, single-phase, 15-amp

and 20-amp receptacles installed in the following locations:

- Bathrooms: All receptacles
- Garages and accessory buildings: Defined as structures that have a floor located at or below grade level not intended as habitable rooms and limited to storage areas, work areas, and areas of similar use.
- Outdoors: All receptacles, with one exception: receptacles that are not readily accessible and are supplied by a dedicated branch circuit for electric snow-melting or deicing equipment.
- Unfinished basements: Unfinished basements are defined as portions or areas of the basement not intended as habitable rooms and limited to storage areas, work areas, etc. **Exceptions:** Receptacles powering *only* a permanently installed fire alarm or burglar alarm system, receptacles that are not readily accessible, receptacles on a dedicated branch circuit and labeled for use with a plug-in equipment (ex: sump pump).
- Kitchens - All receptacles serving countertop areas and any receptacle within 6 feet of a sink. Also receptacle supplying a dishwasher.
- Laundry, utility, and wet bar sinks - Where receptacles are placed within 6 feet of the outside edge of the sink.
- Pool/spa areas: GFCI protection for lights and lighting outlets; receptacles for pumps; all receptacles within 20 feet of a pool, spa, or fountain; and power supply for a pool cover.



Tips for Meeting GFCI Requirements

While the NEC is the leading authority on all things electrical, your local building authority has the final jurisdiction on GFCI requirements (and everything else in your house); check with the building department at your local township for specific rules and regulations on installations in your area.

Note that GFCI requirements apply to GFCI *protection*. This doesn't mean you need a GFCI receptacle at every location. You can provide GFCI protection for an entire circuit with a GFCI circuit breaker. Also, a single GFCI receptacle can be wired to protect itself and every receptacle downstream on the same circuit. This allows you to install one GFCI receptacle at the beginning of the circuit and use standard receptacles for the rest, (provided this is allowed by local code).

GFCIs SAVE LIVES!

If you would like to read more about GFCIs please visit the below websites:

- [The Spruce](#)
- [SD Inspect](#)

Achievable January Goals

January is a great time to make resolutions but unfortunately most of us make lofty goals that are difficult to achieve, get discouraged, and quit by February. Why not try to make some quick, simple improvements to your life that will help you feel more accomplished and successful? Here is a quick list of some ideas:



- unsubscribe from an email list that drives you nuts (hopefully it's not this one!!)
- just down a list of things that need to be fixed
- book a date with a friend you never see enough of
- set up mail order delivery for regular prescriptions
- clean out the freezer
- make your dentist appointments for the year
- purge 10 things you never wear from your closet

- find three new recipes to add to your usual rotations
- clean out your car
- start prepping for tax time
- write a hand written letter to someone you care about
- volunteer for a day
- learn a new craft on YouTube
- sign up for a community class
- organize the attic
- switch off your phone/computer/tv for the day

- cook a healthy dinner for yourself
- set up important dates in your calendar for the upcoming year
- tally up how much you spent on the previous holiday season and use it to budget for next year
- go through your photos and delete any duplicates
- delete any apps that you no longer use on your phone
- check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

-clean out your kitchen pantry
Whatever it is you choose, we hope that it makes you feel good when it's complete!

January