

2008 NEC MAJOR RESIDENTIAL CODE CHANGES

1. ALL 125 VOLT, 15 AND 20 AMP RECEPTACLES INSTALLED IN A RESIDENCE SHALL BE LISTED TAMPER RESISTANT RECEPTACLES. NO EXCEPTIONS ON CEILINGS, ABOVE COUNTERS OR BEHIND APPLIANCES. NEC 406.11
2. ALL RECEPTACLES IN GARAGES AND UNFINISHED BASEMENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE GFCI PROTECTED. NO MORE EXCEPTIONS FOR GARAGE OPENERS, REFRIGERATORS, FREEZERS OR SPRINKLER TIME CLOCKS. RECEPTACLES SERVING PERMANENTLY INSTALLED FIRE ALARM OR SECURITY ALARM PANELS IN BASEMENTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE GFCI PROTECTED. NEC 210.8
3. ALL 120 VOLT, 15 OR 20 AMP BRANCH CIRCUITS SUPPLYING OUTLETS IN DWELLING UNIT FAMILY ROOMS, DINING ROOMS, LIVING ROOMS, PARLORS, LIBRARIES, DENS, BEDROOMS, SUNROOMS, RECREATION ROOMS, CLOSETS, HALLWAYS OR SIMILAR ROOMS SHALL BE PROTECTED BY A LISTED COMBINATION TYPE ARC-FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTER (AFCI). AFCI PROTECTION IS NOT REQUIRED FOR KITCHENS, BATHROOMS, GARAGES, AND UNFINISHED BASEMENTS. NEC 210.12
4. IN BASEMENTS AND GARAGES AT LEAST ONE GFCI RECEPTACLE MUST BE INSTALLED IN ADDITION TO ANY RECEPTACLES INSTALLED FOR SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT SUCH AS FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS, SUMP PUMPS, AND SO FORTH. NEC 210.52 (G)
5. AN ACCESSIBLE GFCI RECEPTACLE OUTLET IS REQUIRED WITHIN THE PERIMETER OF RESIDENTIAL BALCONIES, DECKS, OR PORCHES LARGER THAN 20 SQUARE FEET IN AREA. THE RECEPTACLE SHALL BE LOCATED NOT MORE THAN 6 ½ FEET ABOVE THE STANDING SURFACE. NEC 210.52 (E) (3)
6. OVERCURRENT DEVICES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO BE LOCATED OVER STEPS OF STAIRWAYS, BUT COULD BE LOCATED IN STAIR LANDINGS WHERE THE MINIMUM CLEARANCES ARE MET NEC 240.24 (F)
7. EQUIPMENT GROUNDING CONDUCTORS ARE REQUIRED TO BE INSTALLED WITH ALL BRANCH CIRCUITS AND FEEDERS SUPPLYING SEPARATE BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES. EXISTING INSTALLATIONS ARE ALLOWED TO REMAIN GROUNDED TO THE NEUTRAL CONDUCTOR IF THERE IS NO GROUNDING CONDUCTOR, NO CONTINUOUS METAL PATH (METAL GAS PIPE, METAL WATER PIPE, OR METAL CONDUIT TO THE STRUCTURE) OR GROUND FAULT PROTECTED EQUIPMENT IN THE STRUCTURE. NEC 250.32 (B)
8. WHERE HOLES ARE BORED IN JOISTS, RAFTERS OR WOOD MEMBERS FOR CABLES OR RACEWAYS, THE EDGE OF THE HOLE MUST BE 1 1/4" FROM THE EDGE OF THE MEMBER OR IT MUST BE PROTECTED BY NAIL PLATES WITH A MINIMUM THICKNESS OF 1/16". NEC 300.4 (A)
9. THE INTERIOR OF RACEWAYS INSTALLED UNDERGROUND ARE CONSIDERED WET LOCATIONS. NM CABLE IS NOT APPROVED FOR WET LOCATIONS, NEC 300.5
10. NM CABLE IS NOT APPROVED FOR WET OR DAMP LOCATIONS. OPEN SIDED PORCHES ARE CONSIDERED DAMP LOCATIONS. NEC 300-9, 334-12 (B). NM-C TYPE CABLE IS APPROVED FOR DAMP LOCATIONS AS PER NEC 334-10 (B)

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11. GAPS AROUND ELECTRIC PANELS, CABINETS AND CUTOUT BOXES ARE LIMITED TO 1/8". ALL HOLES AND GAPS MADE IN NONCOMBUSTIBLE SURFACES MUST BE REPAIRED (NEW AND REMODEL INSTALLATIONS). NEC 312.4
12. ALL 15 OR 20 AMP, 125 OR 250 VOLT RECEPTACLES INSTALLED OUTDOORS IN DAMP OR WET LOCATIONS MUST BE LISTED WEATHER-RESISTANT TYPE. NEC 406.8 (A), (B).
13. ALL BREAKERS IN PANELS MUST BE MARKED CLEARLY FOR THE LOADS SERVED. SPARE BREAKERS MUST ALSO BE MARKED NEC 408.4.
14. HYDRO-MASSAGE BATHTUBS SHALL BE ON THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL BRANCH CIRCUIT. NEC 680.71.
15. CORD-CONNECTED POOL FILTER PUMPS FOR STORABLE POOLS SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH A GFCI THAT IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ATTACHMENT PLUG OR LOCATED IN THE POWER SUPPLY CORD WITHIN 12 INCHES OF THE ATTACHMENT PLUG. NEC 680.31.
16. THE RECEPTACLES REQUIRED BY NEC 210-52 PLACEMENT RULES MUST MEET THE OBJECTIVES OF PROVIDING CONVENIENCE RECEPTACLES IN THOSE PRESCRIBED LOCATIONS. SWITCHING BOTH RECEPTACLES OF A DUPLEX-TYPE OUTLET LEAVES AN AREA OF WALL SPACE WITHOUT A RECEPTACLE THAT PROVIDES CONTINUOUS SERVICE, AS REQUIRED BY NEC 210-52.
17. TO SUPPLY BONDING FOR OTHER SYSTEMS AS PER NEC 250-94, AN INTERSYSTEM BONDING TERMINATION MEANS THAT INCLUDES PROVISION FOR CONNECTING AT LEAST THREE GROUNDING OR BONDING CONDUCTORS REQUIRED FOR COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS BY CHAPTER 8, IS REQUIRED AT ONE OF THREE SPECIFIC LOCATIONS.
18. A NEW CHANGE FOR LUMINARES IN CLOTHES CLOSETS. NEC 410-16 STATES THAT SURFACE MOUNTED OR CLOTHES-ROD TYPE FLUORESCENT LUMINARES, OR LED LUMINARES THAT ARE LISTED & IDENTIFIED FOR THE USE ARE NOW PERMITTED TO BE INSTALLED WITHIN CLOTHES CLOSETS, INCLUDING STORAGE SPACES.
19. A REVISION MADE TO NEC 680-22 (A) STATES THAT THE RECEPTACLE DISTANCE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO NOT LESS THAN 6 FT. FROM THE OUTSIDE WALLS OF ANY POOL OR OTHER BODY OF WATER IDENTIFIED IN EACH OF THESE SECTIONS.
20. A REVISION MADE TO NEC 680-22 (B) STATES THAT POOL PUMP MOTORS REQUIRE GFCI PROTECTION WHETHER SUPPLIED BY A RECEPTACLE AND CORD CONNECTION OR HARD WIRED TO THE BRANCH CIRCUIT.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BIU INC. / MAI INC. INSPECTOR WITH ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT THESE OR OTHER CODE CHANGES.