



2008 National Electric Code Highlights New Rules for Residential Electrical Applications

The 2008 edition of the National Electrical Code (NEC) is now in effect as of January 1, 2008. Electrical contractors and homeowners should be aware of the many changes in this edition, especially the following, which are only a few of the changes that will affect us all:

- The definition of kitchen now applies to residences as well as non-residential. Wet bar areas with permanent facilities for food preparation and cooking now require kitchen type wiring (two appliance circuits, proper receptacle spacing at the counter areas, GFCI protection, etc. (See the definition of “kitchen” in Art.100 NEC).
- All multiwire branch circuits now require either common trip circuit breakers or breakers with identified tie handles. (See 210.4 NEC).
- All 120-volt, single phase, 15 and 20 ampere receptacle outlets installed in garages and unfinished basements now require GFCI protection. Exceptions for single receptacles for freezers, sump pumps, etc. have been removed. The only exception left is for fire or burglar alarm systems. (See 210.8 NEC).
- AFCI protection has been expanded to include areas other than bedrooms. All 120-volt single phase, 15 and 20 ampere branch circuits supplying outlets installed in dwelling unit family rooms, dining rooms, living rooms, parlors, libraries, dens, bedrooms, sunrooms, recreation rooms, closets, hallways or similar areas shall be protected by a listed arc-fault circuit interrupter, combination type, installed to provide protection of the branch circuit. (See 210.12 NEC).
- Feeders without an equipment grounding conductor are no longer approved for buildings fed from other buildings. (See 250.32 NEC).
- Ampacities have been reduced for aluminum SEU and SER cables where used for interior wiring. For example, the ampacity of an aluminum SER cable feeder (that does not supply the entire load of a building) will now be found in the 60-degree column of table 310.16. (See 338.10(B)(4)(a) and 334.80 NEC).
- All 120-volt, 15 and 20-ampere receptacles installed for dwelling units shall be listed as tamper-resistant. All receptacles installed outdoors shall also be listed as weather-resistant. (See 406.8 and 406.11 NEC)
- All 15 and 20-ampere receptacles, 125- and 250-volt nonlocking receptacles installed in damp or wet locations shall be a listed weather-resistant type. Weather-resistant covers must be suitable for each location as well (See 406.8 A & B NEC).

Questions?

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