

**Rhodes & Sons Electrical Contracting, Inc.**

121 Rock Lane  
Middlesex, NJ 08846

September 2006

Doing Our Best To Serve You Better

NJ Lic. & Bus. Per. # 11205

Ph.# (732)424-0600

Fax# (732)424-0673

E-Mail: [steve@rhodeselectric.com](mailto:steve@rhodeselectric.com)

Web site: [www.rhodeselectric.com](http://www.rhodeselectric.com)

To our valued customers,

Electricity is essential to our daily lives and easy to take for granted. Please use electricity respectfully and follow safe practices. As a service to our customers, we have put together this newsletter and will be sending it out once a quarter. Please contact us if there are any topics you would like addressed in future issues. I hope it will be a help to you and look forward to servicing your home in the future.

Truly Yours

Steve Rhodes, President

### Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI's)

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI's) are devices that will provide shock protection by quickly cutting off the circuit and preventing injury. GFCI's constantly monitor electricity flowing into a circuit to detect a loss of current. If the electricity flowing through the circuit differs by a slight amount from that returning, the GFCI will quickly shut off the current flowing through that circuit. The advantage of using a GFCI is that they detect even those amounts of electricity too small for your fuse or circuit breaker to activate and shut off the circuit. GFCI's work quickly, so they can help protect you from severe shock and electrocution.

Three types of GFCI's designed for home use are readily available, inexpensive and fairly simple to install:

1. **Wall receptacle GFCI** – This type of GFCI is used in place of a standard receptacle found throughout the house. It fits into a standard outlet box and protects against ground faults whenever an electrical product is plugged into the outlet.
2. **Circuit Breaker GFCI** – In homes equipped with circuit breakers, this type of GFCI may be installed in a panel box to give protection to selected circuits. A circuit breaker GFCI serves a dual purpose: it shuts off electricity in the event of a ground of ground fault and will also trip when circuit or an overload occurs.
3. **Portable GFCI** – A portable GFCI requires no special knowledge or equipment to install. One type contains the GFCI circuitry in a self-contained enclosure with plug blades in the back and receptacle slots in the front. It can then be plugged into a receptacle, and the electrical products are plugged into GFCI. Another type of portable GFCI is an extension cord combined with a GFCI. It adds flexibility in using receptacles that are not protected by GFCIs.



Once a GFCI is installed, it must be checked monthly to determine that it is operating properly. Units can be checked by pressing the "TEST" button; the GFCI should disconnect the power to that outlet. Pressing the "RESET" button reconnects the power. If the GFCI does not disconnect the power, a licensed electrician should be called.

#### Conclusion:

To protect against electrical shock, install Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) in all receptacle outlets in unfinished areas exposed to water or moisture such as garages, unfinished basements and outside receptacles. Kitchen countertop receptacles and bathroom receptacles also require GFCI protection.



**NJECA**

*Don't forget!*  
We can also service any aerial outdoor  
repairs with the use of our  
36 ft. bucket truck!

