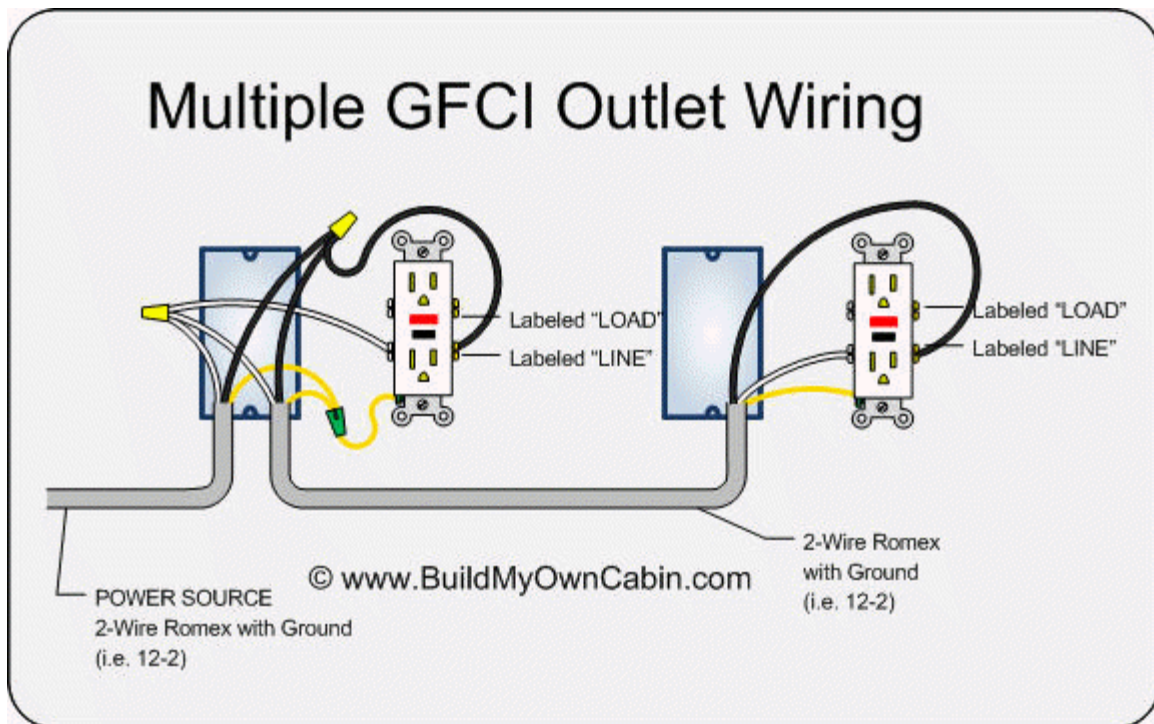


How to Install GFCI Outlets Yourself



1. What is a GFCI Outlet?

GFCI outlets are not like regular outlets and circuit breakers which have been designed to protect your home's electrical system. GFCI outlets are also known as ground fault circuit interrupters and designed to protect people against any electrical shocks. GFCI outlets are easy to identify and are easily recognizable by the 'test' and 'reset' buttons found on the outlet face.

2. What Do They Do?

GFCI outlets are designed to prevent any serious electrical shocks from occurring and reduce the risk of electrical fires by monitoring electrical current, cutting the power or 'tripping' when the outlets detect any imbalance or current flow down an unintended path.

GFCI's are much more sensitive and have much faster response times compared to fuses or circuit breakers.

Where Should You Use GFCI Outlets?

- Outdoor Areas
- Pool and spa areas
- Wet bars
- Unfinished basements and crawlspaces
- Outbuildings and garages
- Utility and laundry rooms
- Kitchens
- Bathrooms

3. How to Install a GFCI Outlet?



A. Turn Off the Power

Switch the power to the outlet off at the main electrical panel's circuit breaker or fuse box. Plug a lamp into the outlets if you are unsure about which circuit breaker switches or which fuses control the electrical outlet. Mark the fuse location with a pen so that you'll be able to find it next time.

B. Remove the Old GFCI Outlet

Take off the old outlet cover plate first and use a circuit tester to ensure that the power is shut off to all the rest of the wiring in the outlet box. Disconnect all three wires running to the outlet but you will need to check which pair of wires get power from the main panel if the outlet has two pairs

of white wires and two pairs of black wires. You can remove all the wires from the outlet and spread the ends apart so that their bare wire tips and then switch the power back on from the panel and use the circuit tester to test which wires carry the power.

C. Check the Wiring

Pull the wires out of the wall box and position them so that they touch each other. Restore the power and touch the black probe to the metal box or bare copper ground wire. If installing a GFCI on an underground circuit, refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

If the outlet box has four wires plus a ground, connect the second black wire to the brass terminal marked load and the second white wire to the silver terminal marked Load. If there are many different ground wires, join them all together with a copper pigtail and use a wire nut to fasten the loose end of the pigtail to the green ground screw.

D. Install the New GFCI Outlet

GFCI outlets can be bought pre-wired with two sets of wires marked "line" and "load" The line sets functions such as the hot wire and supplies the incoming power while the unit's load set distributes power to additional outlets after it on the same circuits. The GFCI load-side wires also provide short circuit and shock protection to those outlets so there is no need to install GFCI outlets on each of them.

Connect and secure the black wire to the "line" pair of wires on the GFCI outlet with wire nuts and wrap each connection with electrical tape. Connect the bare ground wire to the GFCI outlet's green screw. Replace the GFCI outlet back into the box, carefully folding the wires inside.

E. Switch On the Power and Test the GFCI Outlet



Switch the power back on to the GFCI unit. Plug in a lamp to make sure that the power is back on. If not, press the red button to restore the power. You may also test the outlet with a GFCI tester as shown above. Just follow the instructions that come with the tester.