

RG&E consumer news

Future Shock?

Protect yourself with a ground-fault interrupter

Every time you carelessly use an electric appliance, you take your life in your hands.

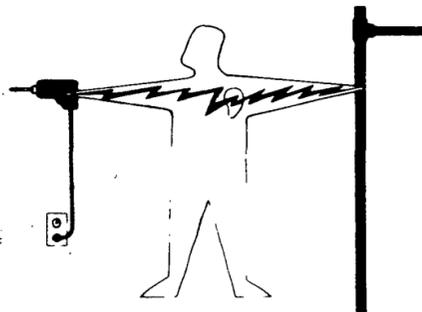
Escaping electric current from faulty equipment or appliances always tries to return to the ground. It naturally chooses the easiest path. As illustrated, this path can be your body if you happen to have direct contact with the ground. Water is a good conductor and, in these cases, affords the connection to complete the circuit.

How can you protect yourself if a malfunction of the circuit occurs? The answer is the ground-fault interrupter, or GFI.

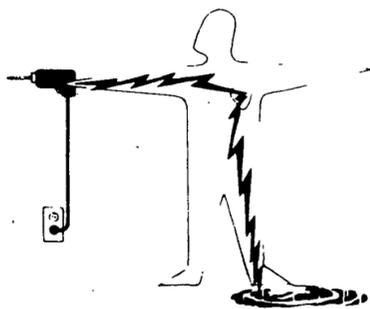
A GFI is a small device which, when mounted on a circuit or outlet, will detect current leaks (also called ground faults) from a circuit. The GFI senses leaks that are far too small for a fuse or circuit breaker to detect, but still are large enough to be lethal. It immediately switches off the electricity, before damage can occur.

Ground-fault interrupters are so essential for electrical safety, especially outdoors where puddles and damp ground are common, that the National Electrical Code has made them mandatory in many areas. You now must have a GFI on any outdoor outlet, on all electrical equipment used with swimmable swimming pools, and even on any bathroom outlet.

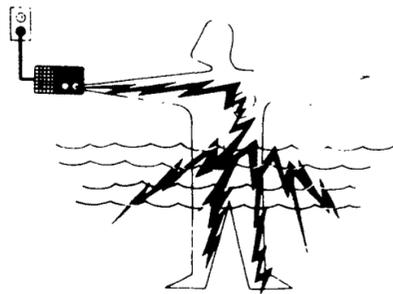
How do you purchase a GFI? Call your electrician and he'll install one. Or you can check with an electrical supply house, a department store, a building supply house, or a hardware store. For additional information, call RG&E's Residential Department at 546-2700, extension 2751. This one small investment could be a real life-saver.



Hand to hand shock path



Hand to foot shock path



Hand to submerged body shock path

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