

# Installing a GFCI Switch

## Checklist

- Circuit tester
- GFCI Switch

### One: Shut off the power.

- Turn off the circuit you'll be working on.
- Find the correct breaker in the break box and flip it to the "off" position.
- If you have a fuse box, find the right fuse and remove it completely from the panel.

### Two: Verify that the power has been shut off.

- Use a circuit tester to verify that the power has been turned off.
  - If the test glows, try turning off a different breaker or removing a different fuse.

### Three: Remove the old receptacle.

- Remove the old receptacle plate.
- Remove the old receptacle from the workbox.
- Disconnect the wiring from the old receptacle.
  - If there are two wires in the box, plus a ground wire, then the receptacle is probably at the end of a series of receptacles. If you have four wires, plus two ground wires then the old receptacle is in the middle of a series of receptacles.
- If there are four wires and two grounds coming into the workbox, determine which wires are coming from the break panel.
- If you don't know spread the wires apart and turn the break back on.
- Use your circuit tester to determine which wires are hot.
- Turn the break back off.

### Four: Connect the wires.

- The black and white wires that were determined to come from the breaker panel need to be attached to the two terminals on the new GFCI outlet that say line.
- Loop each wire so that it wraps around a screw in a clockwise direction.
  - This will keep the wire from slipping off as you tighten the screw.
- If you have a second set of wires that continue to other receptacles, attach them to the other two terminals on the GFCI outlet.
- Loop these wires so that they wrap around the screw in a clockwise direction.
- Take the ground wire(s) coming into the box and attach them to the grounding terminal on the GFCI.

### Five: Install the new receptacle.

- Wrap electrical tape around the GFCI outlet so that it covers all of the screw heads on both sides.
- Bend the wires in a zigzag pattern so that they fold into the workbox.
- Push the new outlet into place.
- Adjust the outlet so that it is perpendicular to the floor.

- Tighten the two screws that hold it in position.
- Install the new receptacle plate over the receptacle.

**Six: Finish and test.**

- Switch the breaker back on, or reinstall the fuse.
- Press the TEST button on the front of the outlet to make sure the installation was successful.
- You should hear a “click” as the breaker inside the outlet trips.
- Press the RESET button to reactivate the outlet.
- If you installed the GDCI outlet in the middle of a series, test the receptacles further down the line using a circuit tester to make sure these work as well.