

Visual Property Inspection

89 Walpole Ave
Toronto, ON M4L 2J2

Prepared for :
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Inspected by :

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Report Commentary

Date: 20-Aug-2015

89 Walpole Ave, Toronto, ON M4L 2J2

This summary is not the entire report. The complete report may include additional information of concern to the client. It is recommended that the client read the entire report.

1.0 Roof Structure

1.1 **Chimney/Vent**

Consult a structural contractor to provide methods of chimney restoration to reduce further leaning/movement and potential risk of collapse.

1.2 **Sec. Roof Life Expectancy**

Budget to replace shingles on back extension over kitchen . Shingle material has exceeded typical life expectancy.

2.0 Basement/Structure

2.1 **Railing**

Install handrail to promote safety

3.0 Electrical Service

3.1 **Service Size**

100 amp service, copper wire.

Knob and tube wiring that was visible has been disconnected.

3.2 **Circuit Wires/Receptacles**

For all electrical deficiencies noted consult a qualified electrical contractor to review and correct as necessary to reduce associated hazards. A partial list as follows:

Install GFCI on exterior of home on east wall to promote safety.

Repair receptacle on east wall in living room . Hot/Neutral is reversed and can cause shock and injury.

Replace broken lamp cover to prevent shock and injury from exposed electrical wires.

Install additional junction points to reduce hazards associated with junction box/wire exceeding current capacity .

Secure all wires to reduce safety hazards.



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4.0 Heating

4.1 **Life Expectancy**

Mid efficiency furnace is 15 years old.

4.2 **AC**

AC unit is 9 years old and functioning as intended at time of inspection.

5.0 Plumbing Components

5.1 **Hot Water Tank**

Water heater is 5 years old and functioning as intended at time of inspection.

Property and Site

Limitations

- Vegetation/Tree/Shrub Vines Debris/Obstruction
 Snow/Ice Cover
AGE OF HOME 75+

Conditions

- Sunny/Mostly Sunny Cloudy/Mostly Cloudy Rain/Wet Conditions
 Snow/Ice Conditions
Approx. Temperature 26 celsius

Building

- 2 Story Duplex Condo Townhome

Recommend CO detector installation as required by law within 15 feet of all bedrooms for occupant safety.

All smoke detectors over 10 years old should be replaced for safety as a precautionary measure. Some have a limited lifespan and older technology detectors are not as effective as newer ones.

Inspection limited by furnishings throughout the home including but not limited to furniture, blinds, curtains, wall & floor coverings, possibly fresh paint, boxes, appliances, clothes, items stored under some or all sinks, and storage items

This is not a building code inspection. Local codes, city and county, can vary significantly and change regularly over time, and are not a part of this home inspection.

Landscaping

- Bushes/Hedge/Flower Bed Vine Slopes To House

Walkway/Path

- Slopes to House Concrete Paving Stone Patio Stone/Brick

Front Porch Light

- Unsecured Appears to be sensor activated Representative # Inspected/Tested

Operational

Deck(s)/Patio(s)

- Slopes to House Wood/Composite Paving Stone/Block/Brick
 Typical Cracking Concrete

There was no access to inspect the support structure under the deck.

Exterior

Limitations

- Insulation Conceals Clearance Debris/Obstruction
 Obstructed/No or Partial Access Bushes/Vines/Tree Obstructions Snow/Ice Cover

No access to west wall to inspect condition of foundation or lower siding.

Foundation Wall

- Stone/Flagstone Brick Concrete Block
 Preserved Wood Partially Concealed Hairline Cracking-typical
 Completely Concealed

Exterior Walls

- Wood/Composite Stucco Vinyl/Aluminum Brick/Stone
 On Wood Framing

Ensure proper caulking and weather seal at all required locations and junctions such as windows, doors, dissimilar materials junctions, etc.

Settlement crack noted under window on north wall. Fill and seal as required to prevent water and insect penetration.

Window Exterior

- Wood Metal Vinyl Wood Int/Vinyl or Metal Cla

Maintain windows to promote weathering protection. Windows show signs relative to age and wear .

Some windows have been updated and are in good condition.

Window Well

- Improper Drainage Corrosion - treat/Repair Metal Wood

Increase depth of window well to promote intended drainage away from structure.

At a minimum, install a dome cover over well to keep water away.

Exterior Lighting

- Not all lights tested Unsecured - repair

Operational

- Representative # Inspected/Tested

Roof Structure

Inspected By:

- Binocular Roof Edge Walk On No Access

Limitations

- Deck/Patio Solar Panels Gravel Cover Steep Slope Height
 Snow/Ice Cover Rain - Too Slippery Material Too Slippery

Main Roof

- Flat Gable Hip/Valley Shed

Estimated Age less than 15 years

Gutter/Downspout

- Galvanized Plastic Aluminum Copper Below Ground Discharge
 Above Ground Discharge

Clean and maintain leaf debris to promote unrestricted flow away from structure

Fascia/Soffit

- Moisture Staining evident - Monitor Aluminum/Vinyl Wood

Covering

- Concrete/Clay Tile Wood Shingle/Wood Shake Asphalt/Composite Shingle
 Metal Other Flat Roof Membrane Tar & Grav

Life Expectancy

- Typical Middle End Exceeded

Accessory

- Vent Stack Solar Panels Skylight(s) Vent Caps

Flashing

- Not Checked/Concealed Chimney Drip Edge Flat Roof Skylight
 Roof to Wall Stack Valley Roll Roofing Replace When Re-roofing
 Aluminum/Galvanized Tarring/Concealed

Chimney/Vent

- Wood Metal Furnace/Water Heater Fireplace
 Brick/Block/Stone Stone Corrosion

Consult a structural contractor to provide methods of chimney restoration to reduce further leaning/movement and potential risk of collapse.

Chimney Cap

- Concrete Metal Minor Cracking - Seal Corrosion

Roof Structure

Visible Flue Liner

Clay Metal Block Rain Cap/Screen Covered

Sec. Roof Life Expectancy

Typical Middle End Exceeded

Budget to replace shingles on back extension over kitchen . Shingle material has exceeded typical life expectancy.

Limitations

- No Access/Sealed Insulated Stored Items Looked In/Insp from opening
 Entered Hatch Pull Down

Structure

- Truss Rafter Stains

Sheathing

- Condensation Boards Plywood/OSB Stain(s)

Insulation

- Concealed/Not Visible/Finished Fiberglass Foam Rock Wool Fiberglass
 Blown In/Loose Batt Other Cellulose
Estimated Depth 8 inches

Ventilation

- None Turbine Mechanical Soffit Roof/Ridge Baffles
 Gable end Turbine

Exhaust Duct

- Concealed Into Attic Metal Flex

Basement/Structure

Limitations

- Finished/Partially Finished
 Dry Ground
 Clutter/Obstruction
 Dry Weather/Drought

Floor

- Crack(s) - Typical. Seal + Monitor
 Concrete
 Carpet
 Ceramic
 Vinyl
 Structural Wood Floor
 Structural Concrete Floor

Wall

- Crack
 Concealed
 Concrete
 Block
 Brick/Stone
 Wood
 Drywall/Plaster

Ceiling

- Unfinished
 Wood
 Tile
 Drywall/Plaster

Window

- Binds - Adjust/repair
 Not Tested
 Thermal
 Single Pane
 Fixed Pane
 Metal
 Wood
 Vinyl
 Representative # Inspected/Tested

Operational

Lighting

- Minimal
 Unsecured
 Representative # Inspected/Tested

Operational

Heat Source

- None
 Electric
 Air Register
 Radiant/Baseboard

Basement Stairway

- Unsecured
 Carpet
 Wood
 Worn

Railing

- Metal
 Wood
 Incomplete
 None

Install handrail to promote safety

Floor Joist

- Concealed
 Engineered Joists
 Solid Wood
 Stained

Bridging

- Concealed
 Continuous
 X-Metal
 X-Wood
 Solid Wood
 None

Sill Plate

- All Concealed
 No Anchors
 Partially Concealed



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Basement/Structure

Post

- On Slab Concealed Wood Concrete Metal Brick/Block
 Stone
-

Bearing Wall

- Concealed
-

Crawl Space

- No Access Vapor Barrier Insulated Earth Floor Concrete Floor
 Moisture Barrier Required Entered Looked In
-

Pipes/Ducts

- Unsecured Leak Insulated

Electrical Service

Service Entrance

No Conduit Overhead Underground 120/240V

Entrance Cable

Concealed Aluminum Copper

Main Disconnect

Switch/Cartridge Fuse Breaker

Service Size

Have Electrician Evaluate

Amps 100

100 amp service, copper wire.

Knob and tube wiring that was visible has been disconnected.

Distribution Panel

Not Opened Non Standard Installation Obstructed

Location basement north east wall

Panel Rating

Room For Expansion

Amps 125

Fuse

Breaker GFCI Breaker AFCI Breaker Over-Fused Cartridge Glass

Circuit Wires/Receptacles

Aluminum Copper Representative # of Outlets Inspected/Tests Switched Outlets

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Install additional junction points to reduce hazards associated with junction box/wire exceeding current capacity .

Secure all wires to reduce safety hazards.

Electrical Service

Grounding

Concealed Ground Rod Water Main

Bonding

Concealed Water Pipe Gas Pipe Meter By-Pass

Heating

Data Plate Not Legible Incomplete

Model: Goodman

BTU Input: 75000

Estimated Age: 15 years

Limitations System Operating In AC Mode System Shut Down/Not Tested

Smoke Detectors Basement 1st Floor 2nd Floor 3rd Floor

Thermostat/Humidistat Unsecured Programmable Standard**Operational**

Heat Type Convector - Wall Unit Forced Air Radiator/Baseboard Radiant - In-Floor

Burner Type Conventional Mid Efficiency High Efficiency

Heating Fuel Source Gas Electric Propane

Fuel Source Shut Off Location Beside

Heating System Advise Service/Repair Contract Verify Service History w/Selle**Not Applicable**

Fresh Air Supply Internal External

Venting Metal Corrosion Sidewall/Plastic Flue

Life Expectancy Typical Middle Exceeded Middle/End*Mid efficiency furnace is 15 years old.*

Gas Burner Not Checked**Operational**

Heating

Ignition

- Electronic Pilot & Thermocoupl

Heat Shield

- Missing Corrosion Soot None

Motor/Blower

- Direct Drive Noisy Other

Operational

Filter

- Disposable Missing Inoperable Undersized Damaged

Duct/Joint/Housing

- Unsecured Corrosion

AC

- Not Checked Dirty Central Room Unit
Approx. Age 9 years Approx Size - Tons 1.5

Operational

AC unit is 9 years old and functioning as intended at time of inspection.

Cooling Fuel Source

- Electric

Temperature Differential

Supply Air 57 Return Air 72

Condensation Line

- Improper Drain Corrosion

Refrigerant Line

- Unsecured Not Insulated

Plumbing Components

Limitation

- Finished Basement Private System

Public Supply

- Concealed Lead Galvanized Plastic Copper Metered
 Not Metered

Shut Off Location: Basement west wall in closet

Public Shut-Off Valve

- Not Tested Corrosion Tagged/Labeled for Convenience

Water Pressure

- Low Typical High

Water Quality

- Discoloration Debris Odor Advise Well Water Quality Tes Typical

Hose Bibb

- Not Checked Shut-Off Valve Unsecured Frost Free

Operational

Distribution Piping

- Concealed Plastic Galvanized Copper

Cross Connection

- Kitchen Laundry Hose Bibb None Visible

Waste Drainage

- Concealed Cast Iron Plastic Copper Pump/Inspect Septic System

Sewer lines in old homes such as this are prone to tree root damage, low spots, fractures, or collapse due to deterioration over time. If line has not been replaced in modern time, it may well need to be in the near future. The best way to determine condition of the drain line requires camera/scope evaluation by a drain professional.

Floor Drain

- None - a potential concern Drain Appeared Functional During Test

Main Cleanout

- Concealed
Location Behind water heater

Hot Water Tank

- With Heating System Gas Electric Some Corrosion Noted - Typical
Age 5 years Estimated Capacity -Litres 151

Operational

Plumbing Components

Water heater is 5 years old and functioning as intended at time of inspection.

Life Expectancy

Typical Exceeded Middle Middle/End

Fuel Shut-Off

Concealed
Location beside

Relief Valve

No Test Lever Corrosion Other

Discharge Tube

Undersized Discharge

Venting

Flue Sidewall Improper Rise Unsecured Corrosion Soot

Burn Chamber

Not Checked Needs Adjustment

Laundry

Floor Worn No drain**Wall** Patched Unfinished Crack - Typical Uneven**Ceiling** Patched Unfinished Crack - Typical Uneven**Lighting** None Unsecured**Operational****Tub/Faucet** Unsecured Plastic Slow Drain Corrosion**Operational****Trap/Drain** Drain stop disconnected/inoperable-repair if inoperable Inoperative Trap Slow Drain Corrosion**Washer** Tested On/Off Function Only
Make Kenmore**Not Applicable**

All appliances were turned on using regular operating controls if they are connected or not shut down. All functions and different systems are not tested. The test simply comprises turning the appliances on to verify some basic functionality.

Dryer Tested On/Off Function Only
Make Kenmore**Not Applicable****Dryer Vent** Unsecured To Crawlspace Mostly Concealed Plastic Duct

Dryer vent cleaning is recommended to increase efficiency and for fire safety. Inspect/clean on a regular basis.

Interior of dryer vent condition concealed-not inspected

Heat Source None Thermostat Electric Air Register Radiant
 Radiator/Convactor

All Baths

Location

- Basement
 1st Floor
 2nd Floor
 3rd Floor

Water Flow

- Normal
 Suspect
 Low

Floor

- Worn
 Minor Cracking - Typical
 Stains/Minor Damage

Wall

- Uneven
 Patched - Typical
 Ceramic

Ceiling

- Uneven
 Minor Patching - Typical
 Minor Cracking - Typical

Window

- Binds - Adjust/Repair
 Not Tested
 Treat Wood To Preserve/Protect
 Thermal Pane
Operational
 Single Pane
 Storm Windows
 Representative # Inspected/Tested

Door

- Binds - Adjust/Repair
 Damaged
 Representative # Inspected/Tested
Operational

Lighting

- None
 Unsecured
Operational

Exhaust Fan

- Advise Installation
 Dirty - Clean for best function
 Noisy - Service/Repair/Replace
Operational

Sink

- Worn
 Chip/Scratch
 Steel/Ceramic

Faucet

- No Shut-off
 Unsecured
 Corrosion
 Minor Leakage at Handle - Repair
Operational

Trap/Drain

- Drain stop disconnected/inoperable-Repair
 Slow Drain - Clean/Repair
 Corrosion - Monitor for leaks

Toilet

- No Shut-Off
 Unsecured
 Crooked - Monitor for leakage
Operational

Secure toilet to reduce secondary water damages

Tub/Enclosure

- Ceramic/Tile
 Solid Surface/Marble
 Fiberglass
 Plastic Panels
 Minor Mildew Stains-Treat/Clean
 Worn - Scratches/Chips



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All Baths

Tub Faucet/Mixer

Operational

Not Tested Unsecured Leaky-Secure/Repair/Replace

Shower Head

Operational

Not Tested Unsecured Leaky-Secure/Repair/Replace

Heat Source

None Thermostat Electric Air Register Radiant
 Radiator/Convactor

Kitchen

Floor

Worn Minor Cracking - Typica Stains/Minor Damage

Wall

Uneven Patched Minor Cracking - Typica

Ceiling

Uneven Patched- Typical Minor Cracking - Typica

Window

Binds - Adjust/Repair Not Tested Thermal Pane Single Pane
 Treat Wood To Preserve/Protect Representative # Inspected/Tested Storm Window

Operational**Patio Door**

Binds - Adjust/Repair Sliding Hinged Dead Bolt
 Minor Damage/Wear Weather Stripping

Operational**Lighting**

None Unsecured Representative # Inspected/Tested

Operational**Sink**

Worn Chip/Scratch

Faucet

No Shut-Off Valve Unsecured Corrosion Minor Leakage at Handle - Repair

Operational**Trap/Drain**

Slow Drain - Clean/Repair Corrosion - Monitor for Leakage

Counter

Unsecured Caulk at Backsplash Minor Damage/Scratches/Worn

Cabinet

Worn/Scratches Missing/Loose Hardware Representative # Inspected/Tested

Range Hood

Cooktop Exhaust No Exhaust No Light Noisy

Operational**Exhaust vent**

Unsecured Ductless Concealed To Exterior

Filter

Missing - Install for safety Unsecured Damaged Greasy

Major Appliances (Built-in)

- Tested ON/OFF only. Did not Test All Functions/Cycles

All appliances were turned on using regular operating controls if they are connected or not shut down. All functions and different systems are not tested. The test simply comprises turning the appliances on to verify some basic functionality.

Dishwasher **Operational**

Brand Bosch # SHU8815

Stove/Cooktop **Operational**

Brand Maytag # 12003187AJH

Refrigerator **Operational**

Brand GE # MD307138

Microwave **Operational**

Brand GE

Heat Source

- None Thermostat Electric Air Register Radiant
 Radiator/Convactor

Interior Living Spaces

Floor

- Worn Minor Cracking - Typica Staining/Minor Damage

Wall

- Uneven Patched - Typical Minor Cracking - Typica
 Wood Frame w/drywall/plaster

Ceiling

- Uneven Patched - Typical Minor Cracking - Typica
 Wood Frame w/drywall/plaster Wood

Window

- Binds - Adjust/Repair Not Tested Fixed Pane Single Pane **Operational**
 Treat Wood To Preserve/Protect Representative # Inspected/Tested Thermal Pane

Lighting

- None Unsecured Representative # Inspected/Tested **Operational**

Ceiling Fan

- None Unsecured **Operational**

Interior Doors

- Binds - Adjust/Repair Hinged Closet door off track **Operational**
 Floor guides missing Representative # Inspected/Tested

Stairway

- Carpet Wood Worn Squeaks - Typical

Railing

- Wood/Metal Incomplete None

Exterior Doors

- Binds - Adjust/Repair Weather Stripping Missing/Improper Dead Bolt **Operational**
 Minor Damage - Dent/Split/Worn Sliding Hinged

Heat Source

- Air Register Electric Radiator/Convactor None
 Radiant-Concealed



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Additional Comments

General Comments

This is a Prelisting Inspection performed for the seller of the home in preparation for putting the home on the market for sale. This inspection is completed to ASHI and OAHl standards, is visual in nature, and does not address building code compliance issues which are the purview of municipal building inspectors.

Exterior

Limitations



No access to west wall. Foundation not visible here.

Exterior Walls



Settlement crack under front window

Exterior

Window Exterior



Caulk and seal around windows

Roof Structure

Main Roof



Roof covering

Roof Structure

Gutter/Downspout



Gutters filled with debris

Chimney/Vent



Leaning chimney



Roof Structure

Sec. Roof Life Expectancy



Deteriorating shingles over kitchen



Attic

Structure



Attic



Attic
Structure



Basement/Structure
Crawl Space



Crawlspace under kitchen



Electrical Service
Distribution Panel



Electrical panel

Circuit Wires/Receptacles



Broken light cover and exposed wires



Secure loose wires

Electrical Service

Circuit Wires/Receptacles



Spliced connections should be inside a junction box.

Heating

Life Expectancy



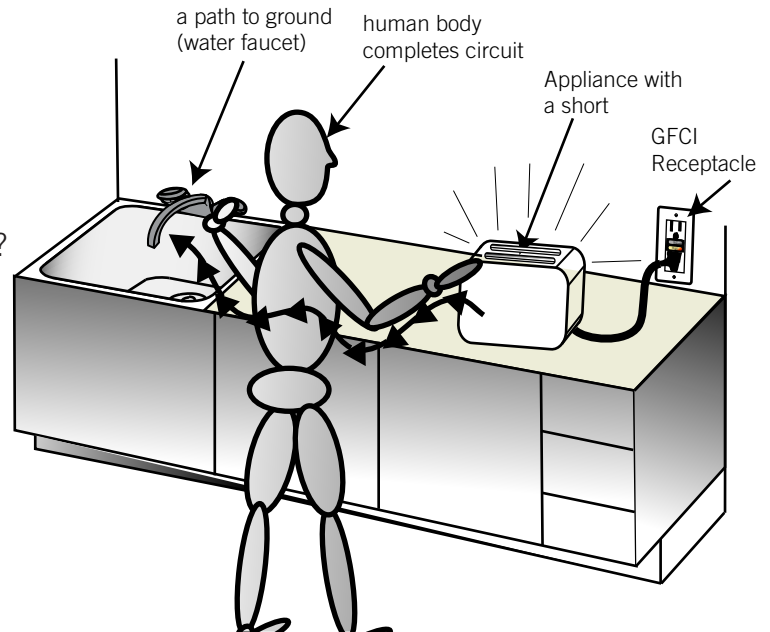
Mid efficiency furnace

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter

A ground fault circuit interrupter, or GFCI, is an inexpensive electrical safety device that can protect you and your family members from a serious electric shock.

Have you ever had an electric shock? While it is an unpleasant experience, it is not usually fatal. However, given the right conditions, the same shock could be fatal! If your body makes a solid connection to the ground, the shock could easily kill you. Here are two examples of a solid ground connection:

- If you are physically standing or touching the ground outside
- If you touch something conductive, such as any part of the plumbing system in your house, that is also touching the ground outside



In other words, if you decide to operate your hedge trimmer in your bare feet and you get a shock, you may not survive it.

How Can a GFCI Help?

A GFCI is a special electrical outlet that prevents electric shocks in situations such as the ones described above. The GFCI monitors the electrical current leaving from and returning to the outlet. The current leaving the outlet should be the same amount as the returning current. If the current returning is less than that which leaves, the missing current could be passing through somebody's body to the ground. The GFCI detects the mismatch and shuts off the electrical outlet in a split second.

Where Should GFCI Outlets Be Located?

GFCI outlets should be installed in any area that presents a risk of an electric shock with a direct path to the ground. In other words, anywhere you might directly touch the ground outside or anywhere where you might touch a part of the plumbing system. Some smart GFCIs locations are:

- Exterior outlets
- Kitchen counter outlets (not common in Canada)
- Bathroom outlets
- Garage outlets
- Outlets in unfinished basements

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This is not a complete list. Areas near swimming pools, hot tubs, and so on should also include this type of outlet.

GFCIs are not perfect, however, and have been known to “nuisance trip” when connected to certain types of electrical equipment. For this reason, exceptions to the suggested (or required) locations for GFCIs exist. For example, a regular outlet would be a better choice for a freezer in your garage since the potential for nuisance tripping of the GFCI is high and might go undetected for days, leading to spoiled food in the shut-off freezer.

Remote GFCI

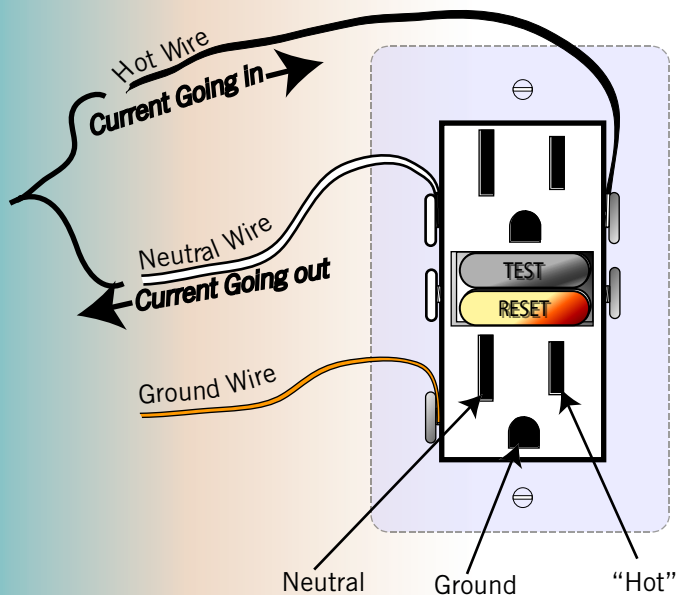
Several electrical outlets usually connect to a single circuit in an average home. A single GFCI outlet will protect all of the outlets in the circuit, even if the other outlets are not GFCIs. But the GFCI outlet must be the first outlet in the string in order for it to properly protect the other outlets, and, of course the connections have to be properly made.

Remote GFCIs sometimes cause confusion for home owners in the following ways:

- A home owner thinks the bathroom does not have a GFCI because the outlet looks like a standard one. The standard outlet under the protection of a remote GFCI should have a sticker indicating its GFCI protection. The problem is, the sticker does not stick forever. A Pillar To Post® inspector can test this for you.
- A standard outlet that does not appear to work in a bathroom or kitchen may actually be attached to a remote GFCI outlet that has nuisance tripped. Before calling an electrician, check the GFCI outlets in other bathrooms and in other locations around the house.

Testing

GFCIs are easy to test and should be tested every month. Simply press the test button on the outlet. You should hear a pop as the reset button pops out a little. To reset, just press the reset button. If the GFCI fails to trip, or if you are unable to reset it, it is time for an electrician to replace it.



Special breakers also provide GFCI protection to the entire circuit. These breakers can be installed instead of GFCI outlets. The GFCI breaker should also be tested monthly. You will recognize this breaker from the test and reset button.

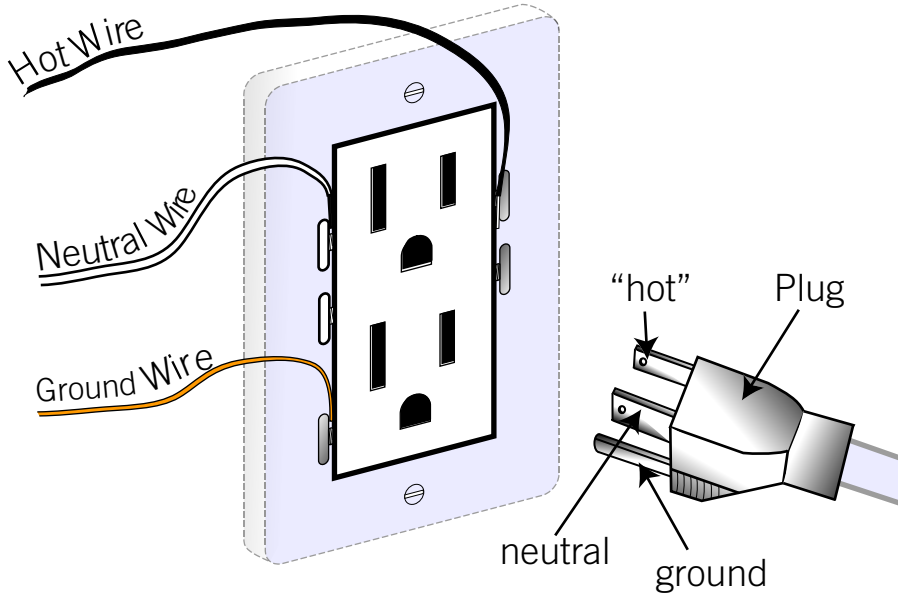
GFCIs can help prevent injury and death from electric shock. It is a small device worth having to ensure the safety of your family members.

Pillar To Post®, *the home of home inspection*

We welcome your comments and suggestions for future Information Series topics
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Electrical Outlet Problems

The electrical outlet not only provides vital access to the electrical current that makes your house hum, but it also warrants deeper consideration for reasons of comfort and safety. Our Pillar To Post® inspectors have seen it all when it comes to incorrect outlet wiring, a safety hazard if left unattended. But before we discuss safety measures, let's start with a quick tour of this component and its mate, the plug.



Have you ever wondered why your electrical outlets have holes of different sizes and shape? To accommodate the plug is the obvious answer. But there is more to this relationship than meets the eye. Hidden behind the outlet is a series of wires that must be properly connected for the outlet's safe functioning. On a modern electrical outlet that accommodates a three-pronged plug, each hole serves a specific purpose: the round hole is for the ground pin on the plug; the small slot takes the small blade on the plug and connects to the "hot" wire in the outlet (the wire that can cause a shock); the large slot takes the large blade and connects to the "neutral" wire in the outlet.

Specific wires have to be connected to the proper terminals for an outlet's safe function. Correct installation is so important that our Pillar To Post® inspectors spot-check outlets with an outlet tester during every inspection.

Reverse Polarity

The large slot and small slot on an electrical outlet, and the different-sized blades on a plug, designate their respective polarizations, and ensure that the plug goes in the outlet only one way, a safety feature that reduces the chances of shock. For instance, a light-bulb socket has exposed electrical connections, the threads being the most exposed part. But polarized socket threads are attached to the neutral wire to prevent someone from getting a shock when changing a light bulb.

If the electrical outlet itself is mis-wired with reverse polarity, the lamp socket threads described above will become "hot". If you touch the threads in the socket, or on the bulb as you screw it into the socket, you may get a shock.

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Outlet Not Grounded

Pillar To Post® inspectors have also discovered outlets with the circular ground holes but with no ground wire connected. In older homes, sometimes the cable leading to the outlet does not have a ground wire, yet the outlet has nonetheless been upgraded to a modern grounded type. Some plug-in electrical devices need this ground connection for their built-in safety features. If the outlet appears to be grounded but is not, the device's safety features will not work.

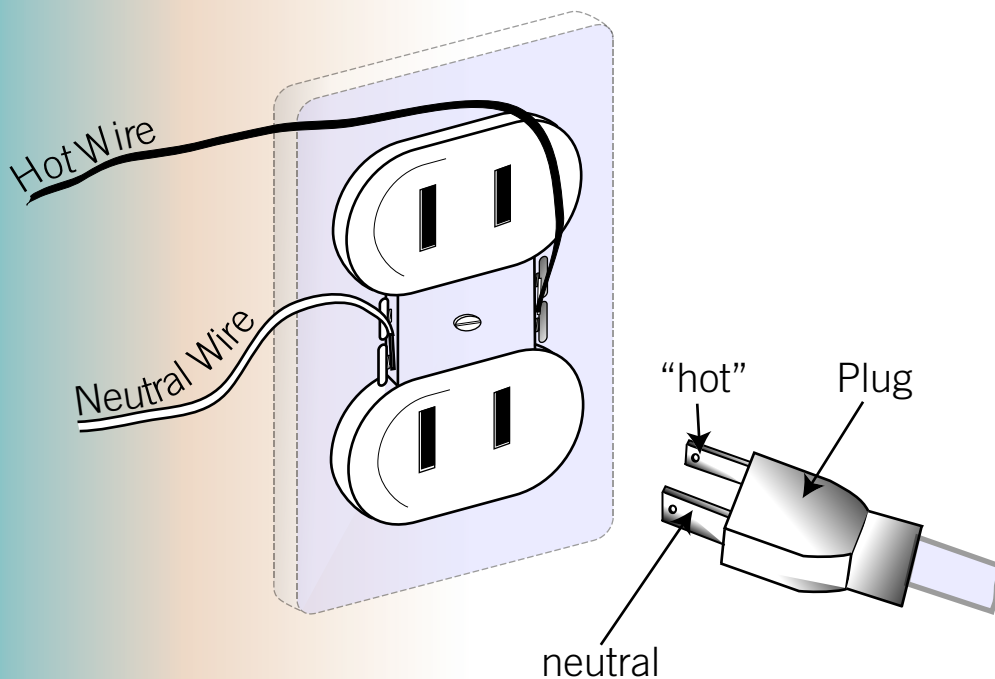
Old Outlets

In older homes some outlets may have no ground slot at all. This does not represent a defect or safety concern, but you will not be able to plug in an electrical appliance that has a ground pin on the plug. Today, most plug-in appliances are not the grounded style and, therefore, do not use or have a ground pin on the plug because they are a double insulated design. In these cases, the old ungrounded outlet will work fine.

If you think it might be a good idea to simply cut off the ground pin to accommodate an outlet without a ground hole, think again. This procedure is doubly unsafe because it not only bypasses the grounding safety feature, but also it bypasses the polarizing feature since a de-pinned plug can be inserted into the outlet either way.

Easy to Fix

An electrician can fix these outlet problems. Though your outlets may appear as minor considerations in the grand scheme of your home, your understanding and the safe installation of your outlets can prevent serious safety hazards.



Ungrounded Receptacle

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Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide, or CO, a byproduct of incomplete combustion of fossil fuels, is a colorless, odorless gas. Breathing CO reduces the blood's ability to carry oxygen. In severe cases, CO can cause death.

Defective or malfunctioning fossil fuel appliances, or inappropriate use of appliances that burn fossil fuel close to or inside the home can pose a serious health hazard. Here are a few examples of dangerous operations:

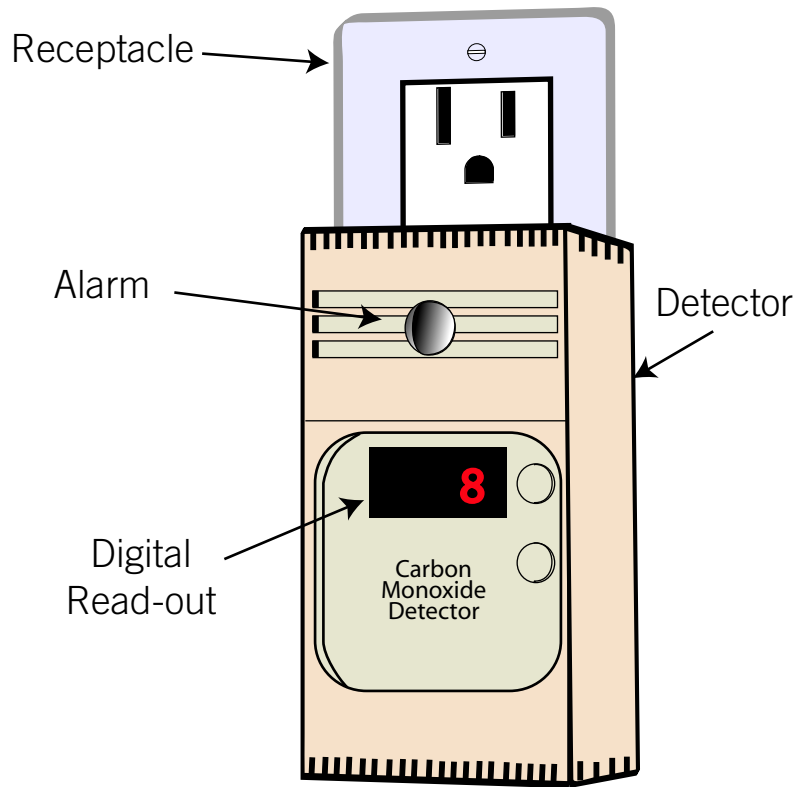
- Running an automobile or gas lawn mower inside the garage
- Operating a barbeque inside the home
- A gas or oil burning furnace with a blockage in the chimney
- Kerosene space heaters
- Operating a generator in the home during a power failure

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, weakness, chest pain, confusion, and loss of consciousness. Carbon monoxide poisoning can lead to death. Low level poisoning may go unnoticed because it may be mistaken for the flu.

Carbon Monoxide Detector

You should have at least one carbon monoxide detector in your home. In some geographic areas, a CO detector is required by law. The CO detector should be placed where you can hear it if it goes off when you are asleep. A CO detector does not have to be placed on the ceiling, since unlike smoke, CO has approximately the same weight as air so it mixes



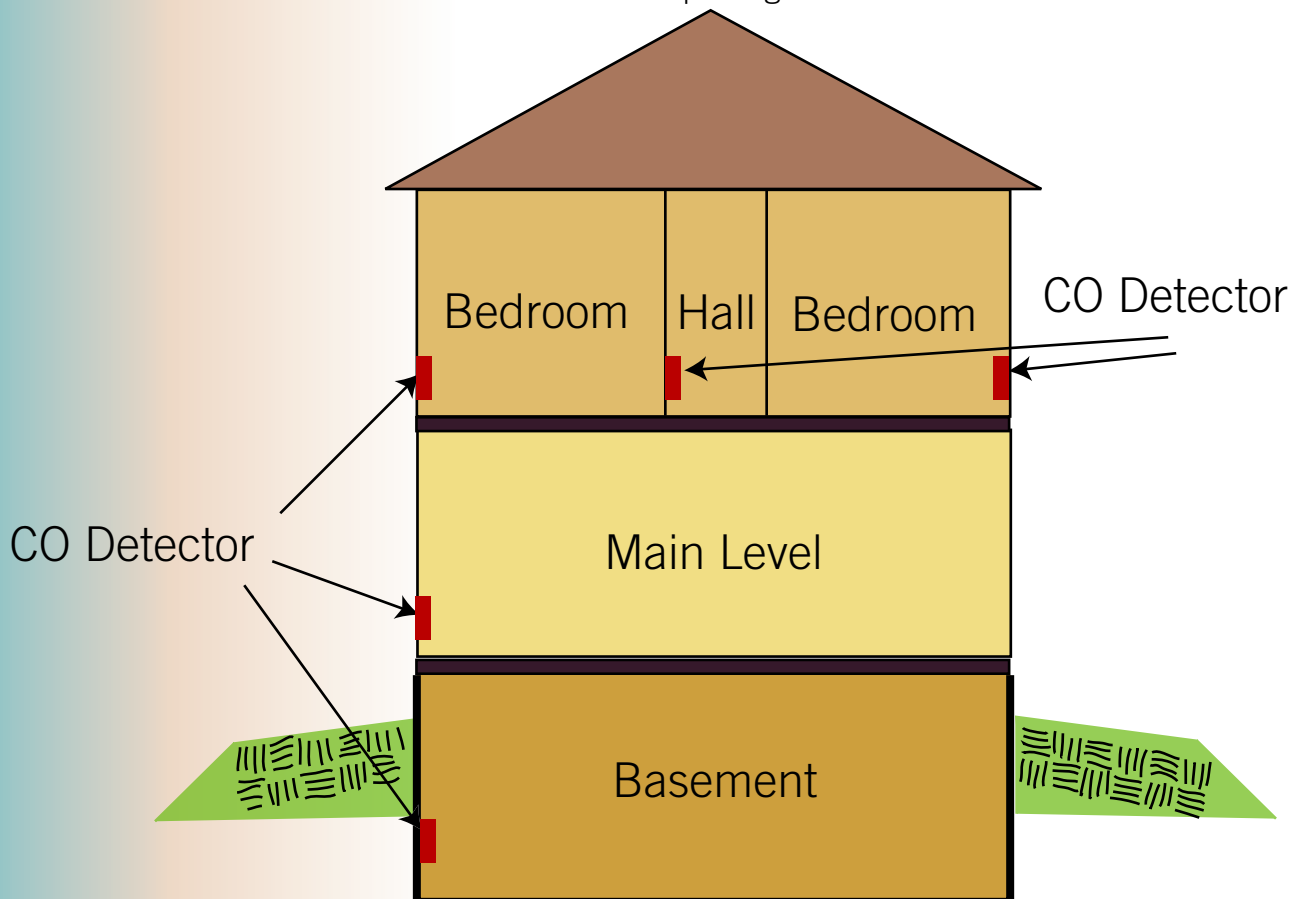
uniformly throughout the room rather than floating up to the ceiling. To avoid false alarms, do not install the detector next to heating and cooking appliances, vents, flues, or chimneys. Make sure you read and follow the operating, placement, and testing instructions that come with the detector.

If the carbon monoxide detector alarms, take it seriously.

Avoiding CO Poisoning

- Have your heating systems serviced every year by a qualified technician.
- Have your fireplace chimney cleaned and inspected every year.
- Install at least one CO detector in your home and replace the batteries twice per year.
- Open the garage door prior to starting your car; drive the car out promptly. Do not leave it idling in the garage. Do not use a remote car starter when the car is in the garage.
- Do not use a charcoal or propane barbeque in the home.

If you are installing only one carbon monoxide (CO) detector, it should be located where you can hear it if it goes off when you are sleeping. For greater safety, multiple CO detectors can be installed throughout the home. Follow the instructions packaged with the detector.



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