Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) were first introduced in the bathrooms of homes as required by the 1975 edition of the National Electrical Code. Prior to 1975, only outdoor receptacles and receptacles near swimming pools required GFCI protection. Since then, GFCI requirements grew as in-home electricity use and the amount of potential contact with water and electricity in homes increased.

In the ten years between 1971 and 1980, there was an estimated average of 1,101 electrocutions in the United States, including 491 consumer product electrocutions every year. As GFCI requirements expanded, the number of electrocutions dropped significantly. Between 2011 and 2022, there was an estimated average of 246 electrocutions a year, including 41 consumer product electrocutions.

**REQUIRED GFCI LOCATIONS**

- **1971**: Outdoor Receptacles
- **1975**: Bathrooms
- **1978**: Garages
- **1981**: Spas and Hot Tubs
- **1987**: Residential Kitchens (Unfinished Basements)
- **1990**: Crawlspace
- **1993**: All Sinks
- **2005**: Laundry / Utility Rooms
- **2017**: Commercial Kitchens
- **2020**: Outdoor Hardwired Outlets

**GFCI FACTS**

- **80% drop** in electrocutions since the introduction of GFCI protection in bathrooms in 1975
- **93% drop** in consumer product electrocutions between 1975 and 2020
- **1978**: The median American home was built in 1978, GFCIs are now required in six additional locations in homes

**WHAT IF GFCI PROTECTION WAS NOT REQUIRED?**

- **603% increase** in electrocutions
- **1,118% increase** in consumer product electrocutions

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, residential U.S. energy usage has increased from 0.7 trillion kilowatt-hours in 1978 to 1.5 trillion kilowatt-hours in 2020, an increase of 114%.

- Methodology: Average electrocution rate prior to GFCI protection (0.54 deaths per 100,000 population) x yearly population of USA. Consumer product electrocution rate prior to GFCI protection was 0.25 deaths per 100,000

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