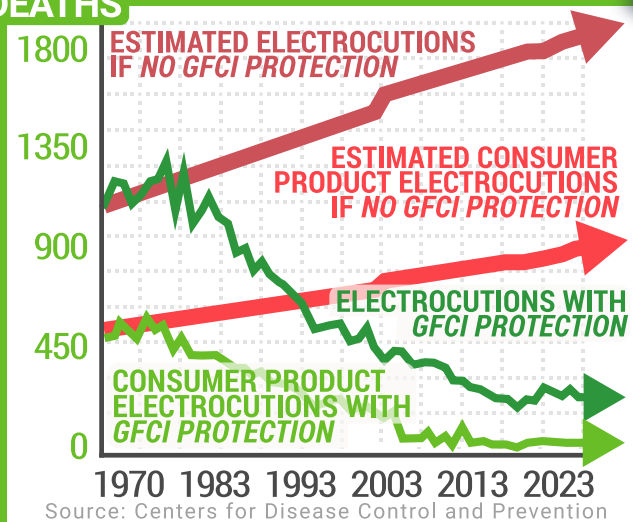
GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS
PREVENT AGAINST ELECTROCUTION

What if GFCIs did not exist?

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.

DEATHS



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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 2014 and 2023, there was an estimated average of **249 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


1987 Unfinished Basements


1990 Crawlspaces


1993 All Sinks


2005 Laundry / Utility Rooms


2017 Commercial Kitchens


2020 Outdoor Hardwired Outlets

GFCI FACTS

80% **80% drop** in electrocutions since the introduction of GFCI protection in bathrooms in 1975

93% **93% drop** in consumer product electrocutions between 1975 and 2020

1980 The median American home was **built in 1980**, GFCIs are now required in **8 additional locations in homes**

WHAT IF GFCI PROTECTION WAS NOT REQUIRED?

603% There would be an estimated* **603% increase** in electrocutions

1118% There would be an estimated* **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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