

# Residential Tamper Resistant Receptacles Information Sheet



The *2014 National Electrical Code* directs that all receptacles installed or replaced within residential dwelling units shall be Tamper Resistant (TR).

This is a new safety feature built into the receptacle. It prevents a child from being able to insert any foreign object in a slot and suffer an electrical injury. The feature functions through a spring/shutter mechanism. In order to insert the prongs of a plug type cord, all prongs must be inserted simultaneously into the receptacle.

These same outlets would be required at any exterior locations and in garages. Depending on the location in the dwelling and/or garage, the receptacle could also be required to be listed as a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI), an Arc Fault Circuit-Interrupter (AFCI) or a Weather Resistant outlet (WR).

The NEC provisions for the replacement of receptacle outlets have changed significantly in recent years. Electrical installers need to familiar with the current and coming provisions in the NEC. The previously simple task of replacing a receptacle outlet now requires a thorough understanding of the NEC rules and options that are related to grounding-type receptacles, non-grounding-type receptacles, GFCI receptacles, AFCI receptacles, tamper-resistant receptacles and weather-resistant receptacles. The typical replacement receptacle in a dwelling will most likely often need to meet two or more of the criteria in NEC 406.4(D).

Please see our handout entitled, *Residential Circuits and Wiring* for more information.

It is important to have a complete understanding of the relevant regulations prior to installing or replacing electrical elements. Replacement of receptacle outlets in dwelling units requires an electrical permit and inspections.

**This information is a guide to the most common questions. It is not intended, nor shall it be considered, a complete set of requirements.**