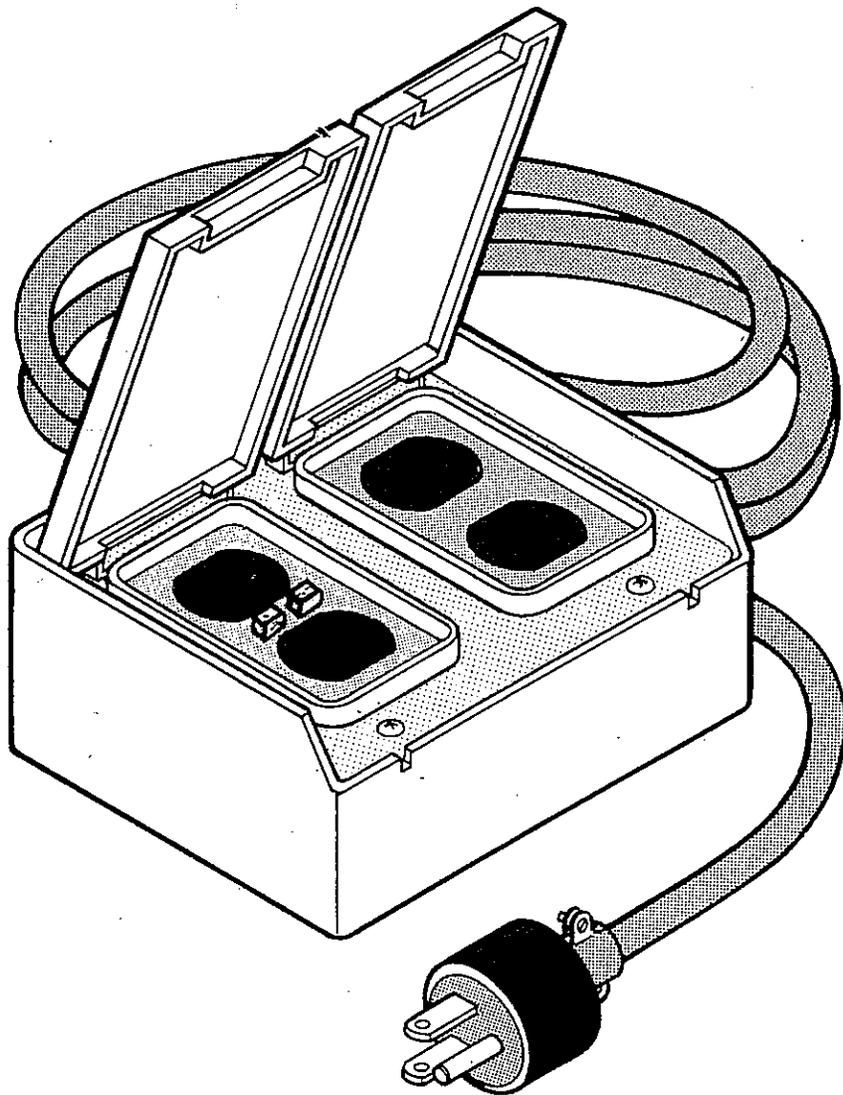


Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters



Power tools can easily cause shocks, burns and fires if they are not in good working condition, if insulation is inadequate or if they come in contact with water or moisture. A ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) provides extra shock protection when you work with portable power tools, especially in damp areas or outside. A GFCI protects you by shutting off electricity if a ground fault occurs.

Your Second-Line Defense

Make sure your power tools are double-insulated and that the outlets you use are grounded. However, these measures may not be enough to protect you against the hazards of working in damp areas and the risk of damaging or cutting a power cord while in use. A GFCI is your best second-line defense against these common electrical shock hazards. GFCIs are mandatory on construction and other outdoor sites:

How the GFCI Works

The GFCI is a fast-acting circuit breaker. It senses small imbalances in a circuit caused by current leakage and, in as little as 1/40 of a second, shuts off electricity. A GFCI protects against fires, overheating and destruction of wire insulation. However, it will not protect you from line-to-line contact hazards, such as direct contact with two live wires.

Where to Install a GFCI

Install GFCI-outlets where power tools are used, or wherever electrical equipment is used near water or dampness, such as outdoors. GFCIs can be wired into circuits at a panel box or used to replace ordinary outlets. They can be a lifesaver! 

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters are a must when working in high-risk areas where moisture and liquids present a hazard.