

Home Owners Guide to Grounded Outlets

Homes wired prior to the 1960's were commonly wired with a two-wired system with ungrounded outlets, unlike today's modern wiring code, which uses a three wire, grounded system. Ground-



ing is a method of giving electricity the most effect way to return to the service panel. Current flows from the panel to the "outlet" or device to power it up. The neutral wire is the return path for current. The grounding wire is an additional path for electrical current to return safely to ground without danger to anyone in the event of a fault circuit. In that instant, the fault would cause the current to flow through

the grounding wire, causing a fuse to blow or a circuit breaker to trip.

Ungrounded Wiring Facts:

No longer permitted for new installations by most jurisdictions.

Very susceptible to problems if improperly installed.

Improperly grounded poses a threat of arcing, causing a potentially high risk of shock.

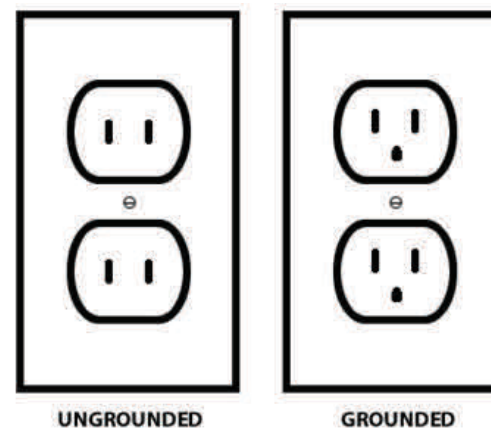
Excessive heat build up can melt the insulation.

The grounding wire (green wire) of an electrical receptacle is important so that if any metal part of an appliance, tool, lamp, or the like becomes energized, the circuit breaker will trip and keep you from being electrocuted or shocked should you touch it. Often times, in older homes original wiring does not have a grounding wire connected to the outlet.

Ungrounded outlets are distinguished by their two slot configuration verses the newer grounded type of outlet that

has three slots. A surge protector plugged into an ungrounded outlet will not operate as the manufacturer intended.

The building wiring number of conductors determine the correct device on the system.



For further information, or free consultation call

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