HOME REPAIR RESOURCE CENTER

HOMEOWNER REPAIR GUIDE

RE-WIRING A KITCHEN

Things to consider – for do-it-yourself or contracted repairs

WIRING

1. Use 12-2 Romex wire with ground.
2. All Romex must be concealed in the wall. It cannot be run openly in the room.
3. Each piece of Romex must pass through its own hole in a stud; two or more pieces cannot share a hole.
4. When passing Romex wire through a wall stud, the wire must be at least 1-1/2" below the surface of the finished wall. If the wire is not that deep, you must cover it with a protective metal plate to prevent nails from accidentally being driven into it.
5. For ease in connecting wires, use large junction boxes whenever possible. Boxes with plaster rings will allow you to adjust the depth of the box in the wall.
6. All new electrical work must be grounded.

CIRCUITS & OUTLETS

7. All outlets above the countertop must be protected by ground fault circuit interrupters. (One GFCI can protect multiple outlets, depending on how the circuit is run.)
8. An electric stove must have its own 240-volt circuit. The refrigerator, dishwasher, and garbage disposal must each have its own 120-volt circuit. It is recommended, but not mandatory, that a microwave also have its own 120-volt circuit.
9. Outlets must be placed within a 2-ft. reach all along the counter.
10. Lighting should be on a separate circuit from the outlets. The kitchen must contain at least two countertop appliance circuits. Where two outlets are installed next to each other, put each on a different circuit. If you install only one outlet, put the top plug on one circuit, and the bottom one on another circuit.

LIGHTING

11. For safety, plan your lighting so that it shines directly down on the counter and illuminates your work areas. Light from behind you will cast shadows on your work.

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Home Repair Resource Center empowers homeowners to maintain their homes for sustainable and diverse communities.

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