

Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCI)

Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCI) are required for all circuits in bedroom outlets, smoke alarms and lighting in new homes constructed in Oregon as of January 1, 2002. Wiring changes made in bedrooms of existing homes also require AFCIs.

What is an AFCI?

- AFCI is a circuit breaker designed to extinguish an electrical arc (also known as a short) quickly and prevent possible electrical fires.
- AFCI breakers are installed in an electrical panel.

Why are AFCIs needed?

- AFCIs provide additional fire protection to the occupants of the home.
- As technology improves in the future, AFCIs will be required on all circuits for new residential construction and remodeling.

Notes about AFCIs

- When an AFCI trips, the source of the fault must be found before resetting the breaker.
- If you cannot find the source of the fault, you will need to contact an electrician.
- AFCIs are not the same as Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) that are required in bathrooms, kitchens, garages, basements and crawlspaces, outside outlets and by pools and hot tubs. GFCIs are designed to protect people from severe or fatal electric shocks.