

Electrical Safety and Lockout/Tagout for Construction – GFCI Testing Guidelines

If these testing steps work, the Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) passes the test and is functioning properly; if the GFCI fails the test, remove it from service. A qualified electrician needs to properly wire or replace the GFCI device.



Receptacle GFCI

Receptacle GFCIs are often found on construction worksites, outdoor areas and other locations where damp conditions do or could exist. They fit into a standard outlet box and protect users against ground faults when an electrical product is connected to the GFCI-protected outlet.

These should be tested **after installation** and **once a month**:

1. Plug in a light or power tool and turn it on.
2. Push the test button on the receptacle; the test button should pop up and the light or tool should shut off.
3. Push the reset button to restore power to the outlet.

Temporary/Portable GFCI

A temporary or portable GFCI is an extension cord combined with a GFCI. It adds flexibility by allowing workers to use receptacles that are not protected by GFCIs. You should only use extension cords with GFCI protection incorporated when permanent protection is unavailable.



These should be tested **prior to each and every use**:

1. Visually inspect device for obvious defects and/or broken parts.
2. Plug a light/tool into the extension cord.
3. Push the reset button on the GFCI device.
4. Push the test button to verify there is no voltage at the outlet (light or tool shuts off).
5. Push the reset button to verify power is restored.

Circuit Breaker GFCI

A circuit breaker GFCI controls an entire circuit and is installed as a replacement for a circuit breaker on the main circuit board. Rather than installing multiple GFCI outlets, you can install one GFCI circuit breaker to protect the entire circuit. At sites equipped with circuit breakers, this type of GFCI might be installed in a panel box to protect selected circuits.