*Safety Matters*

**Install Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter outlets to keep your family safe**

A ground fault circuit interrupter, called a GFCI, is an inexpensive electric outlet that is required by the National Electrical Code for protection against shocks in bathrooms, hot tubs, kitchens and other wet areas.

They can react faster than a blink of an eye to any imbalance of power by immediately shutting off the electrical current.

A ground-fault occurs when electricity flows through an unintended path to ground. This can occur when plugged-in equipment is wet, damaged or defective, or if a person accidently touches live electrical parts and becomes a path to ground.

For example, if an appliances becomes charged with electricity and you touch the appliance with one hand and a grounded metal object with the other, like the water faucet, you provided the current a path to the ground. A GFCI should trip so quickly that the shock will not be harmful.

The GFCI can also help prevent electrical fires and reduce the severity of other fires by shutting off a circuit.

GFCIs look like common wall outlets, but they have a TEST and a RESET button on them. They are not exclusive to three-prong outlets. GFCIs can be installed into standard outlets, and there are even portable devices available when installation is not practical.

If you suspect you might have a ground fault or a circuit that trips repeatedly, you should get it inspected and repaired immediately by a qualified electrician.

 **(Co-op)** wants to keep you are your family safe.