



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

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Bulletin 2020-01

11/19/2020 (Revised 02/04/2021)

1. The 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) went into effect in the State of Minnesota on 11/17/2020. The 2020 NEC will be enforced in the City of St. Paul on all electrical permits obtained on or after that date. The following NEC code references are a synopsis of the significant changes found in the 2020 NEC. The exact text and other code changes can be found in the 2020 NEC code book.

Due to concerns regarding the availability of 2-pole GFCI circuit breakers, the City of St. Paul delayed enforcement of the requirements for 250-volt GFCI receptacles and outlet requirements found in NEC 210.8(A) and 210.8(F).

“REVISED” - On April 5, 2021, the City of St. Paul will begin enforcing the 250-volt GFCI receptacle and outlet requirements found in NEC 210.8(A) and 210.8(F). Industry circuit breaker manufacturers have confirmed that supply-chain challenges will be resolved in March 2021. Electrical work authorized by permits issued on or after April 5, 2021, must comply with the 2020 NEC.

- a. NEC 210.8(A) – GFCI protection shall be provided for all 125-volt through 250-volt receptacle outlets installed in bathrooms, garages/accessory buildings, outdoors, basements, crawl spaces, kitchen countertops, laundry areas, indoor damp and wet locations, and within 6 ft. of the outer edge of a sink, bathtub, or shower stall.
- b. NEC 210.8(F) – GFCI protection is required on dwelling unit outdoor outlets supplied by a single-phase branch circuit rated 150 volts or less to ground, and 50 amps or less. This would include most outdoor air conditioning units.
- c. NEC 210.52(C) – At least one receptacle outlet shall be installed at each island or peninsula for the first 9 sq. ft. or fraction thereof, of countertop/work space, and an additional receptacle outlets is required for every additional 18 sq. ft or fraction thereof, of countertop/work space. At least one receptacle installed in the peninsula shall be located within 2 ft. of the peninsula outer end. A peninsula countertop is measured from the connecting wall.
- d. NEC 230.67 – All dwelling unit services shall be provided with a surge-protective device (SPD). The SPD shall be Type 1 or Type 2, and shall be an integral part of the service equipment, or be located immediately adjacent to the service. The SPD, per the exception, shall not be required at the service equipment if it is located at downstream distribution equipment.
- e. NEC 230.85 – Emergency Disconnect – For one- and two-family dwelling units all service conductors shall terminate in a disconnecting means located in a readily accessible **outdoor** location. The disconnecting means shall have a short-circuit current rating equal to, or greater than, the available fault current. The disconnect shall be labelled/marked appropriately per NEC 230.85, and the label shall comply with 110.21(B).
- f. NEC 314.27(C) – A listed fan box shall be used where ceiling-suspended paddle fans are installed, or where the ceiling outlet box is in a location acceptable to the installation of a ceiling-suspended paddle fans.

- g. NEC 406.9(C) – Receptacles shall not be installed within 3 feet horizontally and 8 feet vertically of the shower threshold or bathtub rim, this includes the space above the tub or shower stall. An exception allows the receptacle installation to be on the opposite wall, to the bathtub or shower, in small bathrooms that do not have the required space.
 - h. NEC 408.6 – Available Fault Current and the date of the calculation must now be field labelled on Switchboard, switchgear, and panelboard enclosures. The label shall comply with NEC 110.21(B)(3). This rule does not apply to one- or two-family dwellings.
 - i. NEC 422.5(A) – The GFCI requirements for appliances in 422.5(A) were revised to include in the listed items, all dishwashers (residential and commercial) and sump pumps. All appliances in this section require GFCI protection whether they are hard-wired, or cord-and-plug connected.
2. Please go to the City of St. Paul’s Electrical Page on the website to use our online services. You can apply for an electrical permit online, or schedule an electrical inspection on a one- or two-family dwelling, <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/safety-inspections/construction-inspections/electrical>. Also, the Electrical page on the above website has helpful residential checklists, and informational documents on garage wiring and smoke detector installations to name a few.
 3. If you want to know the status of an electrical permit obtained in the City of St. Paul visit our website at <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/safety-inspections>. On the front page click the box marked Look Up Property/Permit Information, then enter the appropriate information when prompted.
 4. Call for trench inspections! Note Section 3801.3770 of the Minnesota Regulations which states that if work is covered without an inspection the person responsible for covering/enclosing the wiring is responsible for all costs incurred with removing the cover for inspection. This section also covers wallcovering installed without a rough-in inspection.
 5. Call for final inspections! Note that under MN Rule Section 3801.3780 subpart, it requires a request, from the permit holder, for final inspection when the work is completed, and prior to the wiring being utilized by the intended user.
 6. On final inspections, we are finding clothes washers, dryers, and other appliances encroaching on the required working clearances of NEC 110.26 for service panelboards. It is the contractor’s responsibility to ensure that the planned location of such appliances will not violate these clearances. Also, when replacing existing service panelboards the current NEC 110.26 clearances are required, even if the existing panelboard being replaced did not have the proper clearances. New or replacement service/sub-panel installations must meet current NEC, and cannot be located in bathrooms or closets.
 7. NEC 406.4(D) is the code section that applies to receptacle outlet replacement. A receptacle replaced for whatever reason must be replaced to this code reference. Replaced receptacle outlets may require GFCI, AFCI, tamper-resistant, and/or weather-resistant protection if this protection is required in the current NEC elsewhere in the code.
 8. The Electrical Page on the Department of Labor and Industry’s website is another excellent resource for electrical codes and standards, licensing information, and other informational documents. The link to that webpage is <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors>.

The above information is for guidance only and should not be construed as formal interpretations of the National Electrical Code, nor is the information contained in this Bulletin necessarily applicable in any jurisdiction other than St. Paul. These general guidelines are not a complete list, but are indicative of some of the more common violations found by inspectors. Other requirements pertinent to any electrical installation are contained in the 2020 National Electrical Code as adopted by the State of Minnesota as part of the State Building Code.