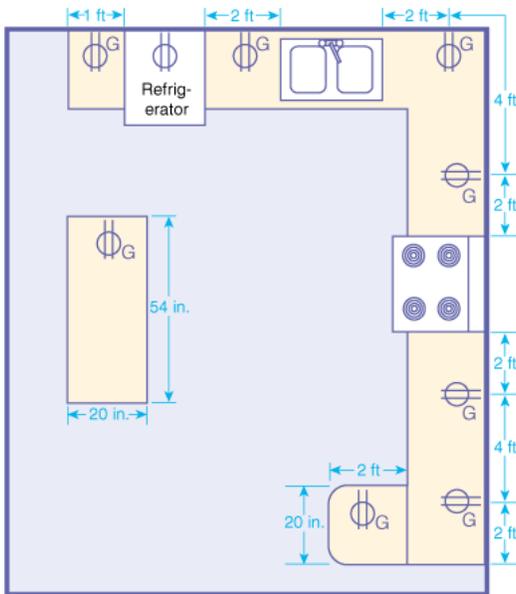


RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN RECEPTACLES

2016 CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CODE SECTION 210.52 (C)

The following is a list of the general requirements for residential kitchen receptacles based on the 2016 California Electrical Code. This handout is intended to provide only general information, contact the Building and Safety Division for any questions or additional information.



Kitchen Countertop Receptacles Spacing

Kitchen Countertop Receptacles, Two Circuits Required. 125 volt, 15, or 20 ampere receptacles used for countertop surface appliances in a dwelling unit kitchen must be supplied by at least two 20 ampere circuits [210-11(c)(1) and 220-16(a)]. These small appliance branch circuits can supply receptacles in the kitchen as well as the pantry, breakfast room, dining room, or other similar areas where food is likely to be served.

Kitchen and Dining Countertop Receptacle Location. In kitchens and dining rooms of dwelling units, receptacle outlets for counter spaces shall be installed according to (1) through (5) below. GFCI and AFCI protection is required for all 125 volt, 15, and 20 ampere receptacles that supply kitchen countertop surfaces [210.8(A)(6), 210.12(A)].

(1) **Wall Counter Space.** A receptacle outlet must be installed for every kitchen and dining area counter wall space 12 inches or wider. Receptacles must be installed so that no point along the counter wall space is more than 24 inches (2 feet), measured horizontally, from a receptacle outlet. *Exception: receptacle outlets are not required on a wall directly behind a range, counter-mounted cooking unit or sink.*

(2) **Island Countertop Space.** This Section mandates only one receptacle outlet to be installed at each island countertop that has a long dimension of 24 inches or greater, and a short dimension of 12 inches or greater.

(3) **Peninsular Countertop Space.** This Section mandates only one receptacle outlet to be installed at each peninsular countertop that has a long dimension of 24 inches or greater, and a short dimension of 12 inches or greater. A peninsular countertop is measured from the connecting edge.

(4) **Separate Spaces.** When breaks occur in countertop spaces (ranges, refrigerators, sinks, etc.), each countertop surface is considered a separate counter for determining receptacle placement. (210.52(c)(1) If a range, counter-mounted cooking unit, or sink is installed in an island or a peninsular countertop and the depth of the countertop behind the range, counter-mounted cooking unit, or sink is less than 12 inches, the range, counter-mounted cooking unit, or sink shall be considered to divide the countertop space into two separate countertop spaces. Each separate countertop space shall comply with the applicable requirements in 210.52(C).

(5) **Receptacle Outlet Location.** Receptacle outlets shall be located on or above the countertop, but not more than 20 inches from the countertop surface; unless the receptacle outlet assembly is listed for the application shall be permitted to be installed in the countertop. Receptacles shall not be installed in a face-up position in the work surfaces or countertops and shall not be located on the sides of cabinets. [406.5(E)]