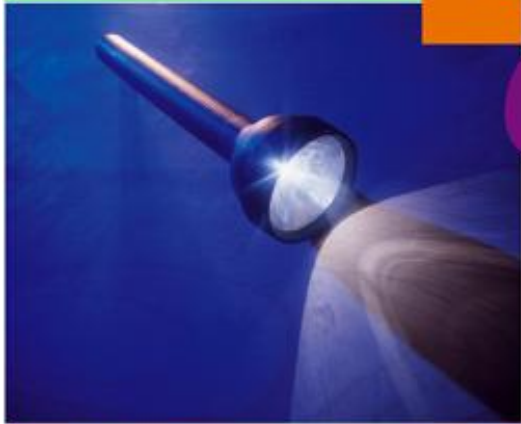


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Q&A:

"ASK THE INSPECTOR'S INSPECTOR"

MCDONALD HOME INSPECTION, INC.

ILLINOIS LICENSE # 450001666

JAMES D. MCDONALD / INSPECTOR-OWNER / 2603 CHEROKEE TRAIL / ROCKFORD IL 61107 / 815 742-1083 / JIM@inspect4us.com

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About MHI

McDonald Home Inspection, Inc. is owned and operated by Jim McDonald, a life-long resident of Rockford, IL and vicinity with strong community ties. MHI is not a franchise with a revolving stable of novice inspectors. All home inspections are performed by me, an inspector with over 30 combined years in residential, multi-family, and commercial building, rehabilitation and inspection.

Contact MHI

To schedule your inspection (usually within 48 hours):

1. Call Jim at (815) 742-1083
OR

2. Send email to:

JIM@inspect4us.com

with your phone #s, current address, and property address and when you are hoping to schedule your inspection.

IL LICENSE # 450001666
2603 Cherokee Trail

Q&A: "Ask the Inspector's Inspector"

by Jim McDonald, Owner MHI / IL Licensed Home Inspector

McDonald Home Inspection (MHI) has started a new question and answer eNews series to help homeowners, home seekers, and realtors understand important tips about home inspections and maintaining your home, with the occasional humorous "home inspection nightmare" sprinkled in. Learn and enjoy!

Email with your good questions to answer in future issues:

ASK@inspect4us.com

Visit the McDonald Home Inspection website to learn more:

www.inspect4us.com

Shocking News

From New Homeowner

August 2009

Q: The electrical system in my newly purchased home is protected by circuit breakers. What I don't understand is why GFCI's (ground fault circuit interrupters) outlets are also needed. Aren't the breakers enough to protect us from overloads and shock?

A: The circuit breaker or fuse in your panel box and the GFCI outlet serve different functions.

Circuit breakers will prevent a fire that's a result of excessively hot wires. This is done by automatically interrupting the circuit when the amperage it's carrying exceeds the capacity of the circuit.

GFCI's are designed to prevent electric shock by interrupting the circuit whenever there is an imbalance in the current. An unintentional electric path (possibly you) between a source of current and a grounded surface is referred to as a "ground-fault."

Don't try this at home... Suppose a bare wire inside the toaster touches the metal case. Your toaster is then charged with electricity. If you touch the toaster with one hand while the other hand is touching a grounded metal object, like a water faucet, electricity will pass through you and you will receive a shock. With the GFCI, the power will be shut off before a fatal shock or burn would occur. Without it, you would be toast.

This is a simple inexpensive life saving installation. Just don't install it

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yourself. I have done many inspections where these outlets were incorrectly installed by someone other than a professional. Unless you want to be breakfast, have a licensed electrician do it for you.

For more helpful links about systems that keep homes safe and running smoothly, visit "HELPFUL" tab on my website.

| "ASK THE INSPECTOR'S INSPECTOR" IS PROVIDED TO IL HOMEOWNERS, HOME SEEKERS, REALTORS |

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