

Electrical Outlets (in units built before 1975)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires the Lincoln Housing Authority to test outlets in every unit receiving rent assistance to ensure that they are properly grounded. Any ungrounded three-prong outlet must be corrected.

Modern electrical outlets are referred to as three-prong outlets because they have a round hole centered below two vertical slots. The round hole is called a “ground” and it reduces the chance that a person may be electrocuted by a faulty appliance or electrical product. The ground protects people from being electrocuted by providing an alternate path for electricity that may stray from a faulty appliance or electrical product.

Older buildings constructed before 1975 typically feature two-prong outlets that do not have a ground. Frequently when two-prong outlets are replaced with three-prong outlets they are not properly grounded.



LHA inspectors use GFCI testers to ensure outlets are properly installed.

The following examples illustrate the most common ways an ungrounded three-prong outlet is corrected.

1) The three-prong outlet is replaced with a two-prong outlet.

2) The three-prong outlet is replaced with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlet.

When installed properly, a GFCI outlet can protect other three-prong outlets on the same circuit but they must be marked with labels that read “GFCI PROTECTED OUTLET” and “NO EQUIPMENT GROUND”.



3) The standard circuit breaker in the electrical service panel is replaced with a GFCI circuit breaker.

4) The two wire cable in the building is updated with new wiring that includes a ground wire.