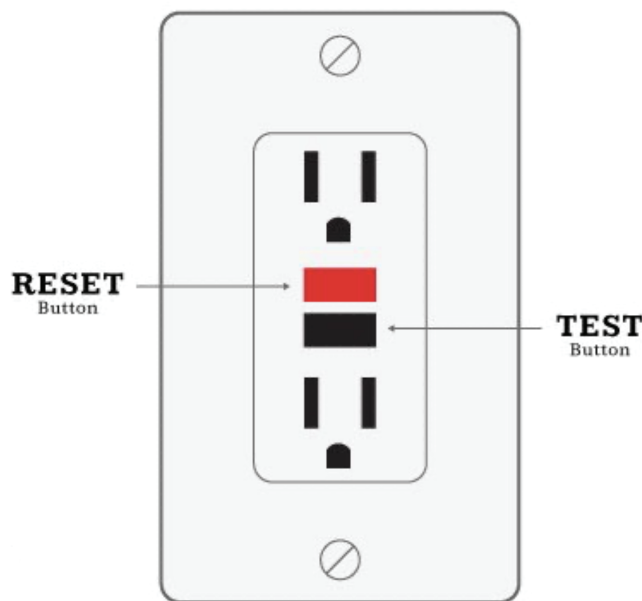


What are Exterior GFI Outlets?

Exterior GFI outlets work almost like regular outlets, except they have a special safety device that immediately shuts off power to the outlet when a ground fault is detected. A ground fault is when the electrical current strays from its normal path and meets the ground through an object that conducts electricity. The purpose of exterior GFI outlets is to quickly cut power to the outlets when a fault is detected, preventing shocks. Exterior GFI outlets are required in areas where water may be present (such as rain and/or landscape water lines) because the introduction of water is a common cause of ground faults. Without these outlets shutting off the power when they encounter water, electrified puddles can form and cause serious injury if they're touched — much more serious than getting a shock straight from the outlet.

If moisture causes an interruption in the electrical flow and your exterior GFI trips, you'll want to make sure the ground fault has been resolved. Sometimes letting steam clear from the area and drying any moisture is enough. Then you can press that reset button (without anything plugged into the outlet), which should be enough to return power to tripped exterior GFI outlets.



Most potential issues with your holiday lighting not working can be resolved simply resetting your exterior GFI outlet. However, if power to your exterior GFI outlets are only activated by a photocell or timer, it will not be able to be reset until the power to the exterior GFI outlet is on.

If troubleshooting with your exterior GFI is unsuccessful, please contact Smithman Productions to schedule a service call.

Thank you.