



# THE TOPEKA HOUSING AUTHORITY

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## Important Inspection Guidelines for Electrical Outlets

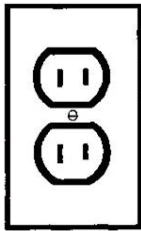
The Topeka Housing Authority is clarifying for owners the criteria for evaluating the proper operating condition of electrical outlets under HUD's Housing Quality Standards (HQS).

### ***Basic Types of Electrical Outlets***

There are two basic types of outlets: two-pronged and three-pronged outlets. Three-pronged outlets may also include Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protection.

### ***Proper Operating Conditions for Outlets under HQS***

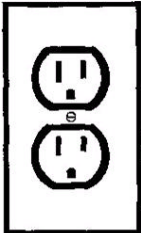
#### ***Two-Pronged Outlets***



A two-pronged outlet is ungrounded and has a two-wire electrical system that includes only a hot and a neutral wire.

Original two-pronged ungrounded outlets are acceptable under HQS as long as they are in proper operating condition. For two-pronged outlets, the Housing Authority inspector will verify that the outlet is in proper operating condition by ensuring a plugged in appliance or agency-provided outlet tester works.

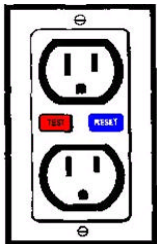
#### ***Three-Pronged Outlets***



A three-pronged outlet typically has a three wire electrical system that includes a hot, neutral and a ground wire.

Three-pronged outlets, including upgraded outlets (those changed from two-pronged to three-pronged outlets), are acceptable under HQS as long as the outlet is grounded. For three-pronged outlets, the Housing Authority inspector will verify that the outlet is grounded by using an outlet tester.

#### ***Three-Pronged Outlets with GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter)***



An outlet with GFCI senses a difference in current flow between the hot and neutral terminals and in unsafe conditions, shuts off the flow of current to the outlet.

Installing a three-pronged outlet with GFCI is a cost-effective method to upgrade from two-pronged to three-pronged outlets without requiring the expensive installation of a new ground wire.

Three-pronged outlets with GFCI are acceptable under HQS as long as the outlet is grounded **or** has working GFCI protection. For three-pronged outlets with GFCI, the Housing Authority inspector will verify that the outlet is grounded by using an outlet tester. If the outlet is not grounded, the Inspector will trip the GFCI outlet by pressing the test button. If the power shuts off, the outlet is operating safely.

In addition to determining electrical outlets are operating properly, the outlets must be free from electrical hazards (i.e., no missing or loose cover plates, no exposed wires, etc.)

If you have any questions regarding the information in this flyer, please call (785) 357-8842.