

KITCHEN ISLAND RECEPTACLE CHANGES



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WHAT'S CHANGED?

As of the **2023 National Electric Code (NEC)** update that is now being put into effect:

Kitchen island and peninsula receptacle outlets are no longer mandatory.

Previously, outlets were required based on countertop size. Now, installation is optional – but with some important provisions.

WHY THIS CHANGE?

Safety First!

The **NEC** made this change after reviewing data showing injuries caused by cords hanging from low receptacles, especially affection children and pets.

Removing the requirement for outlets below countertops prevents dangerous tip-overs of hot appliances like coffee makers and toasters.

SO WHATS REQUIRED NOW?

Even though receptacles are optional, builders must still provide a pathway (conduit or cable) for future outlet installation. This makes it easier and less invasive to add one later, should you choose to do so.

CAN I STILL HAVE AN OUTLET ON MY ISLAND?

Absolutely! You have two safe, code-compliant options:

1. Install outlets above the countertop (within 20 inches).
2. Install flush receptacle assemblies within the countertop surface (UL-listed for the purpose).

Not allowed anymore: Outlets installed on the cabinet face below the countertop.

REASSURANCE FOR HOMEOWNERS

We understand this may feel like a step back in convenience – but the new code now favors safety and flexibility!

- Improved safety for children, pets, and all family members.
- Future-proofing built in – wiring pathways allow outlets to be added later.
- Cleaner island designs are now possible without unsightly cords or outlets!

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Your builder or licensed electrician can walk you through your options and help you make the best decision for your lifestyle and kitchen layout.

****This flyer is based on the 2023 NEC. Always check with your local building department for specific adoption timelines and amendments****