
Electrical - Commercial and Industrial Receptacles

The following information pertains to electrical receptacles in commercial and industrial buildings. The items covered are:

- I. Receptacle and switch height requirements,
- II. Receptacle requirements for HVAC rooftop equipment, and
- III. Bathroom receptacle requirements

I. Receptacle and switch height requirements -

Electrical receptacles, switches and devices, which are required to be accessible, are required to be placed a **minimum of 15 inches above the floor, but shall not exceed 48 inches maximum above the floor.** This measurement should be measured from the floor to the center point of a switch, disconnect or device.

Note: In some cases, the maximum height of such devices may need to be lower than 48 inches. For example - If the reach is over an obstruction, such as a kitchen base cabinet between 20 and 25 inches in depth, the maximum height is reduced to 44 inches for forward approach and 46 inches for side approach.

Devices that are typically required to be accessible include, but are not limited to, card readers, thermostats and alarm controls.

Outlets that do not satisfy these specifications are acceptable provided that comparable outlets that perform the same functions are provided within the same area and are accessible.

II. Receptacle requirements for HVAC roof top equipment are as follows:

- **Receptacles are required on rooftops** when heating, air-conditioning, or refrigeration equipment is installed on a roof.
- Receptacles shall be within 25' of rooftop equipment for the purpose of servicing the equipment.
- Exterior receptacles, electrical devices and their cover plates shall be suitable for the environment in which they are installed.

Note: When exposed to rain and water conditions, electrical devices shall be *listed* for "**wet-location**".

Note: Exterior receptacles shall be Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protected.

III. Bathroom receptacles installed in commercial & industrial bathrooms shall be as follows:

1. Installed at a **minimum height of 15"** above the floor, measured to the center of the receptacle; or
2. Installed to a **maximum height of 48"** off the floor, measured to the highest outlet.
3. Bathroom receptacles shall be Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (**GFCI**) protected per the National Electric Code (NEC) [Section 210-8 (b)].

Additional information can be obtained by visiting our website at www.sanjoseca.gov/building/ or by calling our Information Inspector's voice mail at (408) 535-3555 and leaving a detailed message. In addition you may visit the Building Division in City Hall at 200 East Santa Clara St. Our hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with limited service between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.