



Municipality of Anchorage



Handout E.06

Kitchen Counter Receptacle Layout

Kitchen Countertop Receptacle Outlets

Creative kitchen designs are requiring installers to use ingenuity in complying with the National Electrical Code requirements for counter top receptacles. Counters are no longer simple food preparation areas; multiple use and appearance are important factors in design that have led to a need for clarification on several issues. Building Safety's position on these issues is noted following the National Electrical Code text.

210.52(C)(1) Wall Countertop Spaces. A receptacle outlet shall be installed at each wall countertop space that is 12 inches (300 mm) or wider. Receptacle outlets shall be installed so that no point along the wall line is more than 24 inches (600 mm) measured horizontally from a receptacle outlet in that space.

Counters that are attached to "stub" or "pony walls" that extend above the countertop shall have the number receptacles installed as required by this section.

210.52(C)(2) Island Countertop Spaces. At least one receptacle outlet shall be installed at each island counter space with a long dimension of 24 inches (600 mm) or greater and a short dimension of 12 inches (300 mm) or greater. *Where a range top or sink is installed in an island or peninsular counter and the width of a counter behind the range top or sink is less than 12 inches, the range top or sink is considered to divide the island into two separate spaces as defined in 210.52(C)(4).*

An island counter is a counter supported only by cabinetry which is not attached to a wall.

210.52(C)(3) Peninsular Counter Spaces. At least one receptacle outlet shall be installed at each peninsular counter space with a long dimension of 24 inches (600 mm) or greater and a short dimension of 12 inches (300 mm) or greater. A peninsular countertop is measured from the connecting edge.

A peninsular counter is a counter supported only by cabinetry which is connected to a wall at one end.

210(C)(4) Separate Spaces. Countertop spaces separated by range tops, refrigerators, or sinks shall be considered as separate countertop spaces in applying the requirements of 210.52(C) (2).

210.52(C) 5) Receptacle Outlet Location. Receptacle outlets shall be located above, but not more than 20 inches (500 mm above), the countertop. Receptacle outlets rendered not readily accessible by appliances fastened in place, appliance garages, or appliances occupying dedicated space shall not be considered as these required outlets.

Exception: To comply with the conditions specified in (1) or (2), receptacle outlets shall be permitted to be mounted not more than 12 inches (300 mm) below the countertop. Receptacles mounted below a countertop in accordance with this exception shall not be located where the countertop extends more than 6 inches (150 mm) beyond its support base.

- (1) Construction for the physically impaired.
- (2) On island and peninsular countertops where the countertop is flat across its entire surface (no backsplashes, dividers, etc.) and there are no means to mount a receptacle within 20 inches (500 mm) above the countertop, such as an overhead cabinet.

Receptacles can be located below the countertop level only when the conditions noted by the 210.52(C)(5) exceptions are met.

Receptacle outlets are required behind sinks and ranges if the countertop space behind the sink or range along a wall is greater than 12 inches wide or greater than 18 inches from the deepest part of the corner mounted sink or range. For more detail see figure 210.52 of the 2008 N.E.C.

Countertop desk areas

Countertop desk areas in the kitchen areas are part of the countertop area and shall be supplied by a countertop circuit and shall be GFCI protected



Ron Thompson, Building Official

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