

Q&A

ASK THE HOME INSPECTOR!

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Home & Building Inspections • Radon & Mold Testing



The following article is intended to provide pertinent home and building inspection information to the readers. Your input is welcome by emailing your questions to pat@hbponline.com.

Question: We had our new home inspected last week and our inspector said that some of our electrical outlets have reversed polarity. What is reversed polarity?

Answer: Reversed polarity on electrical outlets is a condition where the wiring to the outlets is improperly connected. They are reversed meaning the 'hot' wire is connected to the 'neutral' terminal and the 'neutral' wire is connected to the 'hot' terminal. Reversed polarity prevents the outlets from being properly grounded. This can cause an electrical shock under certain conditions and is a safety concern.

We frequently find improperly wired outlets in homes when a non-professional installs the wiring, i.e. when a homeowner does some remodeling in the home or finishes their own basement. You can easily test the outlets in your home with an inexpensive electrical tester. The tester will check for ungrounded outlets as well as reversed polarity and other improper connections.

Fortunately, correcting reversed polarity is easy and inexpensive. It is recommended that this be done by a qualified electrician to ensure the work is done properly and safely.

Go to our website at www.hbponline.com for more information about Reversed Polarity, see our specials and order an inspection.



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