

Question: I am getting conflicting reports as to whether my basement sump pump should be connected to a GFCI (ground fault circuit interputer) outlet or to a conventional outlet.

Richard Hoffer, Chelsea.

Answer: The common misconception is that because it is a water pump, it should be protected and be on a GFCI outlet. Wrong. By connecting your sump pump to a GFCI outlet, you are running the risk of not having your sump pump operational at a crucial time. A GFCI plug is very sensitive and may give you "nuisance trips" without you knowing that it has in fact shut off or "tripped". The best solution is to have a dedicated 15 amp line that is used exclusively for that pump, thus ensuring that you have power to your pump when you need it most.

Question: Over the past few years some of our double glazed windows have developed a hazy fog , or film between the two panes of glass . Is there a easy way to get rid of the hazing and water marks? Peter Benninger, Chelsea

Answer: The answer to that question will depend upon the extent of the staining between the two panes. Were this a relatively new occurrence, there are companies that can help to de-fog and ventilate the space between the two panes of glass; thus, for a period of time will reduce the condensation levels, allowing a crystal clear view through the window. However, your question to me leads me to believe that the staining is beyond repair. Unfortunately, once you have reached this stage, the only solution is window replacement. Sorry.

Peter Weeks has been a Chelsea resident for 15 years. As a general contractor since 1988, he has been doing residential home inspections for about one year. He is an associate member of OAHI (Ontario Association of Home Inspectors), CAHPI (Canadian Association of Home & Property Inspectors) and a member of the BBB. Forward your question to , Peter at pw@sympatico.ca or by phone at 290.3697.