How will you do on this GFCI quiz?

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. **I already have GFCI-equipped outlets installed in my house, so I have all the protection I need. T F**
2. **I don't need GFCIs, since I have circuit breakers in my panel box. T F**
3. **All new GFCIs manufactured must meet a new UL standard. T F**
4. **I'll be safe from shock as long as I keep my hairdryer, curler and radio away from the sink or tub. T F**
5. **The National Electrical Code requires GFCIs in more rooms than just the kitchen and bathroom. T F**

ANSWERS

1. **FALSE.** Corrosion, improper installation or voltage surges can cause GFCIs to fail. That's why you should test them monthly.
2. **FALSE.** GFCIs and circuit breakers work in different ways. Circuit breakers monitor for overloads or short circuits in a wire, shutting off power if current levels get too high. GFCIs monitor a circuit to detect current loss caused by a ground fault – and shock – that might occur if you touch an appliance at the same time as a grounded object such as a water faucet.
3. **TRUE.** GFCIs made as of July 28, 2006, must meet the standard, but retailers are allowed to sell older stock. Check the product information on the box to be sure you're getting the latest technology, which includes a miswiring diagnostic and an end-of-life feature.
4. **FALSE.** Sometimes you can't detect the reason for a ground fault.
5. **TRUE.** The code requires GFCIs within six feet of water sources; by kitchen countertops; and in kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms, unfinished basements, garages, crawl spaces and outdoor areas.

Source: Leviton Institute