

Changes to Building Regulations

As of 1st January 2005, changes to the Building Regulations affected domestic electrical installations in **England** and **Wales**. You don't need to be a qualified electrician to make changes to your home's electrical system, but the work must be done in accordance with the standards in the Regulations.

You do not need to notify your Local Authority if you do **minor** electrical work such as:-

- replacing or repairing a socket, light or cable in any room
- adding extra spurs, sockets or lights to an existing circuit (except in a kitchen, bathroom or outdoors)
- adding lights to an outdoor wall on an existing circuit (provided there are no exposed outdoor connections, and the circuit is not extended from a kitchen/bathroom).

However, the work must be done to the standards in the Wiring Regulations and you should consider having the work checked by a competent electrician to make sure it is safe.

Before you start **other** electrical work such as:-

- adding new circuits to your existing installation
- any work (other than repairs / replacements) in a room where there is water (e.g. kitchen, bathroom, etc.)
- any work (other than repairs / replacements) outdoors (e.g. installing outdoor sockets, or non-prewired garden lighting etc.)

You must **notify** your Local Authority Building Control Department, which has responsibility for ensuring the work is inspected and tested.

Where you have any work done by an electrician who is a member of a competent person self-certification scheme, the electrician will be able to certify the work complies with the Regulations and you do not need to notify your Local Authority.

We recommend that you make yourself aware of the Regulations before you undertake any work and if you require any clarification you should contact your Local Authority Building Control Department.



Changes to Wiring Cable Colours in UK

The IEE Wiring Regulations (BS 7671) have changed the colours in cable used for fixed wiring for all new electrical installations.

The old and the new colours are shown in the table below.

| Core colour: | OLD | NEW |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| LIVE | Red | Brown |
| SWITCHED LIVE | Red, or Black with red sleeve | Brown, or Blue with brown sleeve |
| NEUTRAL | Black | Blue |
| EARTH | Bare, with green/yellow sleeve | Bare, with green/yellow sleeve (no change) |
| 2-WAY SWITCHED LIVE | Red, blue and yellow | Brown, black and grey |

For new installations after 31st March 2006, only the **new** colours are permitted. Where new cable is added to an existing installation of the old type, special precautions must be taken (including fixing a warning notice at the distribution board or consumer unit).

When installing any product, please note therefore that you may encounter either of the above types of cable.

If you are in any doubt whatsoever regarding the above, please consult a qualified electrician, preferably us.

Tony Masilamani
AM Electrics Ltd

