

7 ELECTRICAL WIRING MISTAKES and How to Avoid Them

1

It's always better to start with wires that are too long (3 to 6 inches from the junction box) than too short. In the event that you cut them too short, simply splice them and add an extension.

2

Electrical boxes should always be flush with the wall, which are often made of flammable material. Use an extension to shield the recessed wire from the wood or drywall.

3

Just like connecting too many electronics to a single outlet is a dangerous idea, so is running too many wires into one electrical junction box. Check the National Electrical Code to make sure you're not overstuffing your electrical box and for other wiring guidelines.

4

Ground wires are what separate three-slot outlets from two-slot outlets, as they transfer excess current into the ground. You can test for a ground wire using a multimeter, and if you don't feel confident in installing a ground wire, calling a professional electrician is a good idea.

5

Leaving wires, plastic-coated and otherwise, uncovered in your home is a big fire hazard. Always be safe by running the wire through conduit when wiring your home.

6

This mistake has the potential to be highly dangerous and can deliver a potentially lethal shock. You can avoid this error by running the white wire to the neutral terminal (marked by a silver/light-colored screw) and the black (hot) wire to the other terminal.

7

Electrical junction boxes help protect your electrical connections in the event of a short circuit. They're inexpensive and required by most electrical codes, so there's no reason not to have one before you start wiring.

This knowledge can help you avoid these common mistakes when wiring your home.

If you have a knack for electrical wiring and are interested in making a living in electrical work, **Coyne College in Chicago** can help you get where you want to go. With two different programs to choose from (Electrical Construction and Planning and Electrical Construction and Maintenance), you can learn the ropes from experienced instructors on a schedule that fits into your life.

1

Cutting wires too short

2

Placing the electrical box behind the wall

3

Crowding the electrical junction box

4

Three-slot outlet without ground wire connections

5

Not covering your wires

6

Switching the hot and neutral wires

7

Not using an electrical junction box

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