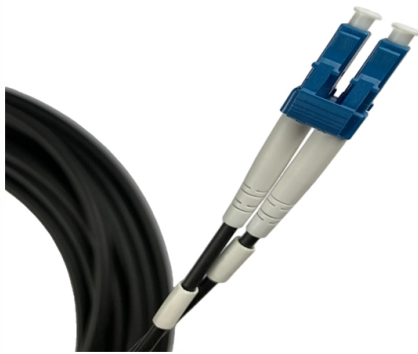


Different wire colors in the distribution box



Article Overview

Wire colors in a distribution box indicate their function: live (brown or red), neutral (blue or white), and earth/ground (green/yellow or green).

Common Wire Colors and Their Functions

- Live (Line/Hot) Wire: Typically brown in Europe (IEC standard) or red in older systems, and may be black or other colors in the US. This wire carries current from the power source to the appliance or circuit .
- Neutral Wire: Usually blue in Europe or white/gray in the US. It completes the circuit by returning current to the source .
- Earth/Ground Wire: Green/yellow striped in Europe and most international standards, or green/bare in the US and Canada. This wire provides a safe path for electricity in case of a fault, preventing electric shock .

Regional Variations

- Europe (IEC Standard): Brown = live, blue = neutral, green/yellow = earth. Older installations may have red for live and black for neutral .
- United States (NEC Standard): White or gray = neutral, green or bare = ground, all other colors (commonly black, red, or blue) = live .
- Canada (CEC Standard): Similar to the US, with white for neutral and green or bare for ground

Article Content

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Global Electrical Wiring Color Code Standards

This article provides an overview of electrical wiring color standards in major regions worldwide. Following these

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