



Electrical Safety Rules



- Never work on a live circuit – always make sure the power is **OFF** at the breaker. **TAPE the breaker in the OFF position to make sure it stays there.**
- **Never rely on breaker labels** as they can be incorrect or misread – use a lamp, voltmeter, or outlet tester to make sure the power is OFF.
- When using a voltmeter, get a “before” and “after” reading to make sure you are using the meter correctly. Many will show “0V” if you have the settings wrong.
- Never use a metal object to touch hot (black) to neutral (white) or ground to see if power is on.
- **Never work inside any breaker box or on 220V circuits** - leave those to professionals as you can be seriously injured or killed. Parts of the breaker box are still “live” even after cutting off the main breaker.
- Never leave exposed wires in the middle of a job. Cover them with wire nuts or electrical tape until you can return to finish the work, in case the power is accidentally restored.
- Always use tools with insulated handles to help to avoid accidental shocks. Also check the insulation on all wires.
- Always treat wires as if they are “live” - don’t let the hot wire touch ground or neutral or metal objects.
- **Never touch the bare hot wire with one hand and touch neutral or ground or metal objects with your other hand – if the power is ON this will send a shock across your chest. Good practice is to work with one hand whenever possible.**
- Never do electrical work near or standing in water.



- **Make sure you know what you are doing – it is better to ask for help or check in a book than to be hurt.**

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