

Metal splashbacks – earthing/bonding

(Withdrawn – January 2024)

The Technical Guidance Notes are produced by NHBC as guidance solely for our builder customers as to how to interpret the technical requirements in relation to the warranty cover provided by NHBC under its Buildmark, Buildmark Choice, Buildmark Link, Buildmark Solo, Buildmark Connect or any similar product from time to time. It has not been created or intended for distribution or use outside of that purpose. The information contained in this Technical Guidance Note does not constitute advice and is not to be relied upon by any third party. Nothing in this Technical Guidance Note is intended to, nor should it be taken to, create any legal or contractual relationship. Any third party who chooses to rely upon the information contained in the Technical Guidance Notes shall do so entirely at their own risk and NHBC accepts no duty of care or liability, however caused, in connection with its use or reliance by any third party.

Question

Should metal splashbacks in kitchens be electrically earthed or bonded?

Considerations

- BS 7671: 'Requirements for Electrical Installations (the IEE Wiring Regulations)' requires that certain conductive parts should be earthed, have main equipotential bonding or have supplementary equipotential bonding.
- A metal splashback is not normally part of an item of electrical equipment, hence does not need to be earthed.
- Main equipotential bonding is used to link items such as incoming metal mains water and gas service pipes back to a main earth terminal on the electrical supply. A metal splashback is unlikely to introduce an earth potential hence does not require main equipotential bonding.
- Supplementary equipotential bonding is used to link together items such as metal supply pipes to taps and radiators and is only required in special locations such as bathrooms or shower rooms.
- A kitchen is not a special location. Hence a metal splashback installed in a kitchen does not require supplementary bonding.

Answer

The Institution of Electrical Engineers have confirmed that earthing or bonding is not required to metal splashbacks in kitchens (including splashbacks containing electrical accessories such as socket outlets).



NHBC, NHBC House, Davy Avenue, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK5 8FP
Tel: 0344 633 1000 Web: nhbc.co.uk

National House-Building Council (NHBC) is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority for carrying on insurance business and insurance distribution activities.

NHBC is registered in England and Wales under company number 00320784. NHBC's registered address is NHBC House, Davy Avenue, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK5 8FP. Note that only certain parts of our products and services are within the scope of UK financial services regulations. For more information on our products and services, please see our website nhbc.co.uk or your NHBC product documentation.

HB2851 07/24 W358bf