

Electrical – earth bonding metal back boxes

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Question

Should an earth connection be made to the earth terminal on metal back boxes for electrical sockets and light switches, etc?

Considerations

- Electrical installations and earth bonding should be carried out in accordance with BS 7671 'Requirements for electrical installations'.

Answer

For metal back boxes which are fully recessed and covered by the faceplate:

Sockets, fused spurs, etc

The earth wire(s) should be connected to the earth terminal on the socket.

Light switches

As there is usually no earth terminal on a light switch, the earth wire(s) should be connected to the earth terminal on the metal back box.

If you have any queries relating to the electrical installation ask to see the Electrical Completion Certificate supplied by the electrical contractor.