

Basic Electrical Wiring

In standard three wire situations, the black wire is the hot. The white wire is the neutral. The green or un-insulated wire is the ground.

When wiring an outlet or hubble with screw connections, the black wire attaches to the connection with the gold or brass colored screw, the white wire connects to the silver screw and the bare or green wire connects to the green screw. Make sure all connections are tight and double check to be sure that bare wires do not touch one another as this will cause a short circuit and present an electrical hazard.

When using 18/2 wire (zip cord) notice that one strand is sheathed in a smooth insulation, while the other strand is sheathed in a "ribbed" insulation.

Ground Fault Interrupters are designed to interrupt the power when there is a problem or fault with the ground...just like the name indicates. I recommend using a GFI whenever and wherever possible to reduce the risk of electrical hazard. However, using a GFI is not a substitute for common sense. Never hang a lamp over water as in a bathtub, sink or pool, etc. Never use a lighting unit or fixture that has exposed bare wires or a loose connection at the fixture, switch or hubble. If you notice the wiring for a fixture getting exceedingly warm—unplug it and allow it to cool. Never work on a set without an ample supply of chemical fire extinguishers. **Do not attempt to extinguish an electrical fire with water.**

Always wear gloves and rubber soled shoes when working with and around electricity. Remember, Alternating Current (AC) will always try to find the shortest path to complete its circuit. If there is an exposed wire, and you offer a shortcut to the ground, you will become the conductor. So take every possible precaution.

There is an adage: Slow down to speed things up. Think about it. Take you time to do things safely and properly so you don't have to do anything twice....