

Exposed, Energized Wiring and Electrical Components

Poorly maintained or exposed electrical wiring increases the likelihood of fires and electrical shocks in the workplace. Employee safety is particularly at risk if wiring is prone to accidental contact.



Junction Boxes with Missing Covers

Junction boxes without covers are the most common places to find exposed and hazardous wires. When energized junction boxes are uncovered, the wiring is vulnerable to damage and

accidental contact. If easily combustible materials, such as paper or cardboard, are stored near unprotected energized wiring, a spark or electrical arc could easily start a fire.



Outlets and Switches Missing Covers

Electrical outlets and light switches with broken, displaced, or missing covers may also expose wiring which endangers any employee plugging in an appliance or turning on a light. It is required that outlets and switches remain covered.

Light Fixtures: Missing Covers or Improperly Mounted

Electrical hazards may also be found in light fixtures. Uncovered fluorescent lights, incandescent light fixtures without bulbs, or light fixtures hanging by wiring are all dangerous. Fluorescent lights have energized wiring, starters, and ballasts under their protective covers. If the light's cover is not properly replaced, these hazards are exposed. When an incandescent bulb is removed and not replaced, the open socket presents a hazard if it remains energized; and therefore, it is best to leave the burnt bulb in the socket to cover the electrical contact until the bulb is replaced.



Modular Furniture with Exposed Wiring

Modular furniture provides electrical power and must protect occupants from shock hazards. Because the furniture has live electrical wiring running through it, it is important to enclose and protect the wiring within each module. Corner and baseboard wiring covers are needed to prevent accidental shock hazard contact and damage to wiring. The following are examples of unprotected wiring in modular furniture that people could contact accidentally.

