

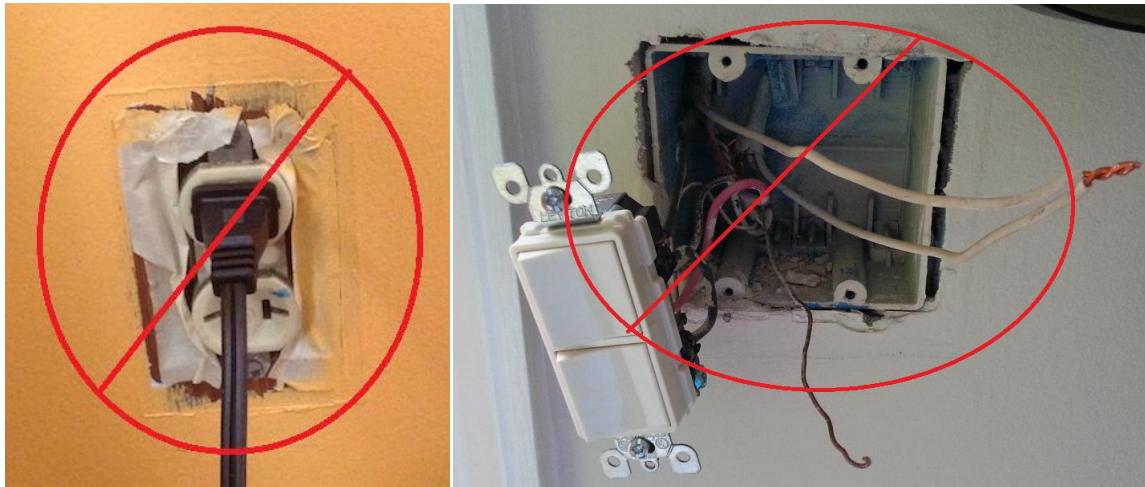
DEFECT OF THE MONTH

JANUARY 2018

12-3000 (5) – Outlet Box Covers



Over the past year, ESA inspectors have identified more than 14,000 defects regarding missing cover plates on outlet boxes, receptacles, switches and other devices. Rule 12-3000 (5) of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) requires all outlet boxes for devices including receptacles, switches or luminaires to have a suitable cover or luminaire canopy.



Missing cover plates leave receptacles, live terminals and wires exposed, which could represent a shock hazard for anyone in the area. It may also represent a fire hazard if exposed arcing devices are in close proximity to combustible materials or building structures.

ESA strongly recommends maintenance staff and facility operators perform periodic inspections to check and take corrective actions to ensure unused openings in electrical enclosures are filled properly, and cover plates on electrical devices are in place – especially in areas accessible to the public.