

DEFECT OF THE MONTH

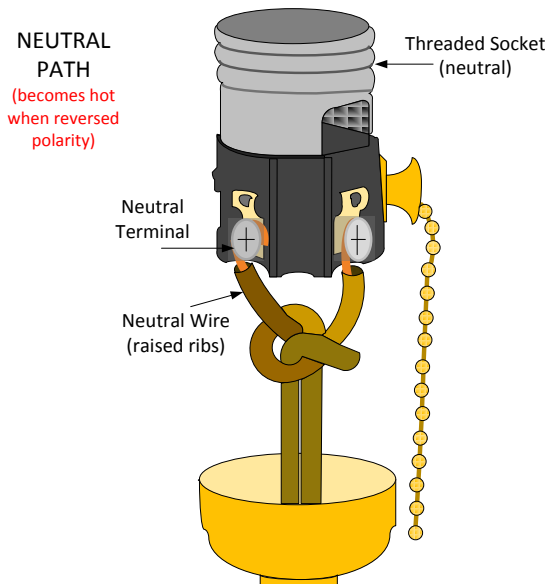
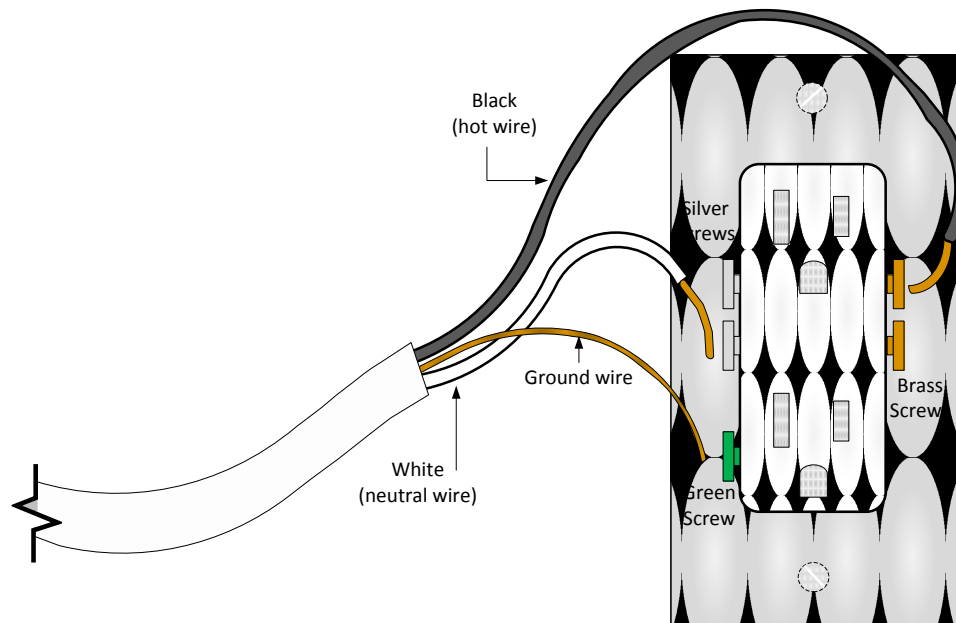
September 2017

Receptacle Polarity



Over the past year, ESA inspectors have identified more than 1,700 defects regarding reversed receptacle polarity. Rule 26-002 of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) requires a device that has an identified terminal or lead to be connected to the identified conductor of the circuit. Applying this to a receptacle, the neutral conductor of the circuit needs to be terminated to the silver screw of the receptacle.

Ensuring correct polarity for receptacles is an important step in preventing a hidden hazard that could lead to electrocution.



Cord caps (plugs) are polarized, so reverse wiring of a receptacle may create a dangerous shock hazard for equipment such as the threaded socket of lamp holders. These could become energized even when the switch is in the off position.