INSULATION RESISTANCE: WHAT GOOD AND BAD LOOK LIKE

THE LAMP LIT UP. WHAT DOES THAT TELL YOU?

Picked up at **Guidance Note 3** · p.70. The minimum in the table is **1 MΩ**, but in **new installations** a value below **20 MΩ** should be investigated.

What a healthy reading looks like.

A typical multifunction tester tops out at **2000 MΩ**. A good new circuit drives it past that, and the display shows a **"greater than"** symbol — meaning the resistance is too high for it to read. That is where you want to be.

EXAMPLE: A LOAD LEFT CONNECTED

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Lighting circuit, lamp still in, tested line to neutral

Reading   = 0.160 MΩ
And       = the lamp lit up during the test
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That is the signature of a load left in circuit. The reading is nonsense and the lamp lighting tells you why.

What you do about it.

Go round and check nothing is still plugged in and lamps are out — or, as the inspector, get the installer to do it if they are on site with you.

EQUIPMENT	WHAT TO DO BEFORE TESTING
Dimmer switch	Drop the plate and bypass the cables behind it with connector blocks
Cooker outlet or FCU with a neon	Drop the plate and bypass
SPD	Pull it out of the system — it unplugs
AFDD	Remove or isolate it

🖐 **Switched off is not disconnected.** Sensitive electronics left in circuit will influence the reading even when the accessory is switched off. And whatever you isolate, lock it off so nobody can restore it while you are testing.

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