PROTECTIVE CONDUCTORS AND CABLE COLOURS

WHAT IS GREEN AND YELLOW ALLOWED TO BE USED FOR?

Green/yellow = protective conductor. It's used **only** for:

- the earthing conductor
- main protective bonding conductors
- supplementary bonding conductors
- circuit protective conductors (CPCs)

COLOUR	USE
Green/yellow	Protective conductor
Blue	Neutral
Brown	Line (L1 on three-phase)
Black	Line 2 (three-phase)
Grey	Line 3 (three-phase)

The mix is **70% / 30%** green and yellow, either way round. **Never** put green/yellow sleeving on a line or neutral.

- **On single-phase**, a blue, black or grey conductor used as a line **must be sleeved brown** at the terminations. For example, the blue of twin and earth used as a **switch line** gets brown sleeving. It's cheaper than buying twin brown cable.
- A neutral used as a mid-point or supply neutral must stay blue.
- Sleeve and terminate correctly as you go. Inspecting while you work saves problems when you test.
- UK colours changed in **2004** (from red/black). You'll still find old installations.

BS 7671 · Reg 514: identification of conductors · **p.141**

Electrician's Guide to the Building Regs · Chapter 11: identification of conductors, old and new colours

CONDUCTOR ID COMES UP IN THE EXAM

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