RING FINAL TESTING: RINGS ONLY

SHOULD A LIGHTING CIRCUIT EVER BE A RING?

This test is only done where there **is** a ring final — and rings are for **socket-outlet circuits**. Lighting and cookers are radials. If you meet a lighting circuit wired as a ring, it's not a standard circuit, and it's worth asking why.

The ring came in after the war, when a great many homes were being built and copper was short: one 2.5 mm^2 circuit, out and back, on a 30 or 32 A device. It's still installed every day, and there are millions of them in service, so you **will** test them.

> **The alternatives are radials.**
> The On-Site Guide's standard socket circuits are the ring, an **A2 radial** (4 mm^2 on a 32 A device) and an **A3 radial** (2.5 mm^2 on 20 A). Plenty of electricians now wire radials by choice.

It's a **dead test**, so the circuit is isolated, and it uses the **low-resistance ohmmeter**. Disconnect **all six conductors** of the ring at the board: both lines, both neutrals, both CPCs. (On an RCBO, the neutrals come out of the RCBO.)

Guidance Note 3 · 2.6.6 · continuity of ring final circuit conductors · from p.63

On-Site Guide · Appendix H · Table H2.1 · standard socket circuits

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