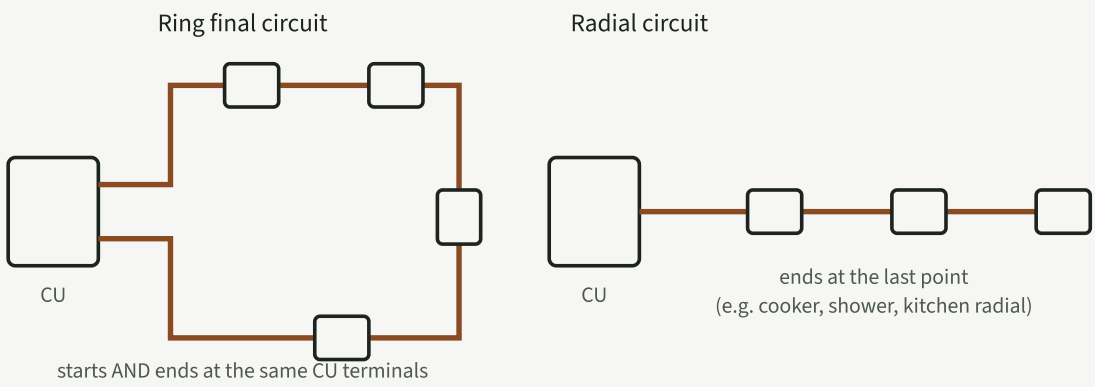
SOCKET CIRCUITS: RINGS AND RADIALS

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A RING AND A RADIAL?



At each socket on a ring, the two lines share one terminal, as do the two neutrals and the two CPCs. It's **parallel** wiring, never series. Say "ring **final** circuit", not "ring main". A ring main is a distribution or supply circuit *before* the property. A **spur** is a branch off a ring or radial.

CIRCUIT	PROTECTIVE DEVICE	MIN. COPPER CSA (T&E)	MAX. FLOOR AREA
Ring final	30 or 32 A	2.5 mm²	100 m²
Radial	20 A	2.5 mm²	50 m²
Radial	30 or 32 A	4.0 mm²	75 m²

- This table is for normal **socket-outlet circuits**. Lighting (usually 6 A), cookers, showers and immersion heaters go through the full design process instead.
- Floor area means the **room area served**, not metres of cable. On a 20 A radial, 50.02 m² is already too much.
- Many kitchens now use a **32 A radial in 4 mm²** instead of a ring. Rings go on a 32 A device. If you need smaller breakers, use two 20 A radials instead.

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WORTH HIGHLIGHTING

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