THE PROCEDURE, STEP BY STEP

SIX STEPS. WHY PROVE THE TESTER TWICE?

Done on a board with the supply energised. The order matters.

1. **Identify what you're isolating.** The client tells you the problem; you locate the circuit from the **circuit chart** on the board — sockets, cooker, lighting.
2. **Switch off in the right order.** Each individual circuit breaker or RCBO first, then the RCD serving them, then the next group of breakers, then their RCD — and **the main switch last**.
3. **Lock off** the device you've isolated at, fit your warning sign, and **keep the key on you**.
4. **Prove the AVI works** — on a proving unit, or a known live supply.
5. **Test**, in the order below.
6. **Re-prove the AVI** on the proving unit or known live source. Only then is the system proved dead.

Why isolate circuit by circuit rather than just hitting the main switch?
You *can* switch a main switch on load — that's what it's for. But dropping every circuit individually first is better practice.

⚡ **Proving unit or known live supply — either is acceptable.** The proving unit is the safer option every time, because you aren't putting your fingers near live conductors to prove your tester.

🖐 **Step 6 is not optional.** Getting no reading proves nothing on its own — a dead tester gives you exactly the same result as a dead circuit. You only know the system is dead once you've shown the instrument still works *afterwards*.

Safe isolation doesn't go on the certificate.
There's no box for it. It isn't one of your recorded tests — it's what you do *before* you start filling anything in.

Electrician's Guide · Section 7 · the full procedure ★ | **GN3** · safe isolation

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