

Painted & Worn Receptacles by Finn Home Inspectors

Painted Receptacles & Switches Must be Replaced!

Even if the inspector checks a painted receptacle and does not get an excessive voltage drop does not mean it will be safe when you plug into it with some other device; replace all painted receptacles & switch's.

The concern is if pain got inside it may interrupt contact, leading to arcing, heat and possible fire.

Older paint that contains lead (some paints may contain other conductive substances) that are actually conductive and can create contact between the hot and neutral. This contact may be minimal, in that it does not draw enough current to trip the breaker, but rather build up heat, like a small light bulb would, consequences would not be good!

A large number of painted receptacles you cannot plug into, particularly a three-prong plug due to paint obstructing/making the opening smaller.



Extreme Paint over

Dangerous ones, were painted and partially cleaned, what's inside???

Painted switches must be replaced too

Worn out Receptacles Must be Replaced!

If a receptacle is worn it must be replaced.

Worn out receptacles are ones that have very little resistance when you plug in or when pulling the plug out. The contacts inside the receptacle have worn or have been damaged. We have seen them where our voltage tester actually falls out under its own weight.

Poor contact is present in a worn receptacle and thus arcing and heat buildup can occur leading to a fire.

Areas we find the worn-out receptacles are areas that are used frequently. In hall ways where a vacuum is plugged into is the most common. Bathroom receptacles and kitchen are the next common ones we find that are worn out.

A peculiar 3-year-old house had nearly all the receptacles worn excessively, our tester was literally falling out of many of them. We initially thought that the receptacles must have been defective from the manufacturer. However, in one room there were child protection plugs in an outlet, we found it nearly impossible to pull the plugs out, had to use a screwdriver. It turned out the prongs on the plastic pugs were excessively wide, and consequently damaged the receptacles.