



Instant guide to wiring accessories installation



Planning ahead for your wiring accessories installation

The times when wiring accessories were solely restricted to one specialised function are gone. A **switch** is no longer just a switch but an integral part of the overall design of a build and more importantly, the other wiring accessories included.

For those planning a wiring accessories application, there are many factors to consider. This guide, explores how suppliers can deliver cost-effective solutions for customers whilst maintaining integrity in design and meeting the client's needs and expectations.

The role of wiring accessories

Traditionally when planning a commercial or residential new build, **wiring accessories** are not considered until the final stages of the planning process. However, with the recent introduction of the **17th edition of the IEE wiring regulations**, discussing these elements of the build earlier on in the planning process is becoming much more common place.

Electrical wholesalers will now be up to date on the 17th edition and will be able to offer advice on aspects of the new regulations.

Planning for your wiring accessories installation

Planning for a wiring accessories installation is no longer a one-man job. During the planning stages of a commercial wiring accessories installation, for example, there are several individuals, all with specific roles to play, that need to be consulted.

This includes the main consultant and, in larger commercial projects, an interior designer or architect who will ensure the final design and style of a project meets the client's requirements. An environmental engineer may be called in for planning on larger developments like hotels, where unoccupied rooms and empty corridors cannot be left with the lighting or heating on.

The planning process

From the beginning of the project, the manufacturer should also be involved in all stages of the planning process. This ensures they are on hand to establish what technical requirements have to be satisfied.

There are a number of factors that need to be considered when choosing wiring accessories, including:

Companies such as ABB have the right products for every solution/need; an example of this is the increased use of energy saving products. By offering the customers what they are looking for it is not about selling a specific product, but ensuring that the products chosen meet the specifications such as **Part M** and **Part P** of the Building Regulations and the needs of the projects as well as finding the suitable style and design for the client's requirements. At the same time, it is the



Make wiring accessories an integral part of your build

manufacturers' role as advisor to ensure if a piece of technology is not suitable, the client knows about this with plenty of time to consider the alternatives.

- Energy savings – how much energy will you save with your new wiring accessories?
- Reliability and sustainability of technology – make sure your technology meets all building and wiring standards and is both reliable and future-proofed
- **Support** – work with manufacturers who offer qualified individuals to contact in case of further questions or problems incurred after installation
- Quality – what warranty does your manufacturer offer?
- High standards & reputation – both manufacturers and wholesalers must bring the right products to the table, so that every project can be a success

Taking the time for installation

Planning a wiring accessories installation can typically take between six to 12 months depending on the size of the project. On larger projects there are often more changes made and the

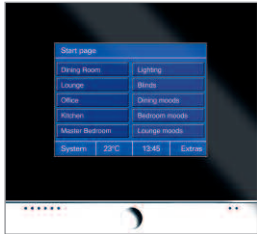


Modern technology can provide added flexibility at the planning stage.

number of changes implemented inevitably affects the length of the planning process.

It's important to ensure that, at each step, change won't deter development, but instead can support the client to ensure he/she gets the best product to meet his/her needs.

What does the consumer need to know?



In order to ensure a successful installation, customers also need to be aware of both the legal and safety aspects of new buildings. However, through consultants, all of the parties involved in the build can support the customer to understand new concepts, laws and even health and safety regulations.

What does a wiring installation cost?



The cost of a wiring accessories installation varies from project to project based on the size of the project, the specific requirements and the design. During the planning process it is always important to recognise a clients' budgetary requirements and find the best solution to match. However,

occasionally projects do go over budget and it is up to the Project Manager to help identify how the project can be rectified without losing valuable technology. There is often the situation where the client simply cannot justify the budget, but through planning it is always possible to find a similar solution that also meets the client's needs.

Payback periods

Customers recognise many of the immediate benefits offered by modern wiring accessories, but it is in the long term where the benefits are greatest. Benefits from ***smarter more environmentally friendly technology*** will not be gained automatically, but will result in longer-term benefits. Many clients are happy to spend more because they understand that in the long-term they will benefit from substantial financial and energy savings.



When budgets do become a problem, clients will try to save money by removing build details, like changing from switches from dimming to normal. The flexibility of such technology often depends on the build and whether a designer or architect is involved and interested in those smaller visual details.

For larger commercial builds, project specifications remain relatively precise with regards to what they want to achieve and how the final output should look or perform. If a client, on any size build, is over budget and the additional costs cannot be justified, manufacturers may suggest looking at the lower cost product range.

Choosing your devices

When it comes to the UK market, it is more about having the right products the customer wants. However, with the range ABB offers, customers have the choice of products for every requirement. Giving a customer what they need, is not about selling a specific product, but ensuring the products meet the building regulations and needs of the project, as well as finding the suitable style and design.

Aesthetics

Within interior design, performance and aesthetics are inextricably linked. Whilst a building is expected to function in a certain way, it is also expected to look a certain way. The look is determined by how a building is finished. Wiring accessories are used to add the finishing touches to the overall look of an interior whilst providing users with control over their environment. Therefore choosing and placing the correct wiring accessories is extremely important because it can determine how successful a building is.

To help you choose the right products for your project, the following highlights some of the newest wiring accessories from ABB.

Concept BS

With costs becoming tighter throughout the UK construction sector, contractors and designers need to find alternative sources of cost-effective technology that will provide the same high specification look, without losing functionality, quality or the required design aesthetics.



The ***Concept BS range*** of switch and switch accessories is presenting contractors, consultants and interior designers with a wealth of possibilities for achieving stylish, contemporary wiring solutions. With its easy to install modular design, the range helps complete the overall look and feel of a building. Suitable for hotels, offices and residential properties the range has been competitively priced without compromising on quality.

The range is available in a choice of white or silver switch frames, for either single, dual, three or four gang designs.

No cables, no worries. ABB's new PIR

To help ensure the security of any property, ABB has also expanded its range of passive infra-red (PIR) sensors with its cable-free [Busch Watchdog 220 WaveLine](#), providing a true anytime, anywhere movement detector.



With a 16 metre detection range and no need for any wiring, the ABB Busch Watchdog 220 Waveline offers property owners a simple device that helps dramatically improve safety, lighting efficiency and energy consumption. The device is ideal for integration into commercial buildings as the product's 'group operating mode' supports larger properties where more than one sensor may be required.

ABB's Busch-Watchdog 220 WaveLine device also comes with the well-known features of the [Busch-Watchdog ProfessionalLINE](#), including a 16 metre detection range, rear-field detection and advanced sensitivity capabilities enabling automatic adjustment to changes within the environment, such as increased temperatures during warm weather. An anti-dazzle feature also protects the PIR's operation against any sudden flooding of light, for example from a car's headlights.

Smart building technology

The use of [smart building technology](#) in buildings is increasing, offering users greater control over their environment. The ABB EIB/KNX is an intelligent installation system that meets the highest requirements for modern building control. The technology is the first open standard for control of all types of intelligent buildings whether industrial, commercial or residential.



Using the [KNX system](#), properties are easy to manage and control resulting in increased flexibility, security and economic efficiencies. Functions such as lighting, shutter control and heating can be individually adapted to the requirements of the user. Changes to the installation can be easily made at a later date to suit building requirements because of the system's modular design.

With ABB's KNX system, users can carry out all the required functions from any location within a building. It is also possible to operate the installation remotely via a mobile phone or the internet so users can set their preferred settings before they even reach the building. Traditionally elements such as lighting or heating were controlled in a closed system. By opening up these systems it is possible to integrate parts of the building that were previously independently controlled. This allows for greater freedom in how you interact with your building.

The intelligent installation system is extremely flexible and can be easily combined with ABB's Concept BS range, giving property owners or operators improved control over lighting, heating and security whilst helping to deliver energy and cost savings.

Top three tips!

ABB offers the following top three tips when planning a wiring accessories installation, including:

1. Consider wiring accessories as a major part of the technology in a build, helping towards better energy efficiency.
2. Look for reliability! Can you really afford to cut the budget or should you spend more and get the quality, reliability, sustainability and technology required for the project.
3. Finally, contact [ABB](#) when considering a wiring accessories installation.

For more information on ABB's Low Voltage Products and Wiring Accessories range, please email lv.products@gb.abb.com, ref: 'Wiring Accessories Installation'.

More Reading

[Reduce Carbon footprint in buildings](#)

[Exploring the 17th Edition](#)

[Intelligent building technology](#)

[Wiring Accessories](#)

[Evaluating Your Homes Wiring System](#)

[Intelligent energy efficiency](#)



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