



TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Type NM-B Cable Jacket Color Coding for Conductor Size Identification

Type NM-B cable first began to be manufactured with color-coded jackets in 2001 to aid in identification of the conductor size. The color code that was introduced, which continues to be used today is as follows:

14 AWG – White
12 AWG – Yellow
10 AWG – Orange
8 AWG – Black
6 AWG – Black

This color coding system was developed to aid those who sell, install, and inspect Type NM-B cable so that the cable size can easily be identified, to reduce mistakes resulting from the use of an incorrect conductor size.

It should be noted that this color coding system is not a requirement of NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code*[®] (*NEC*[®]) or UL 719, *Safety Standard for Nonmetallic-Sheathed Cable*. Type NM-B can be produced and sold without using this color code. As such, the print legend, which is required by the *NEC*[®], should be used to verify the conductor size.

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