

Wire up the right way

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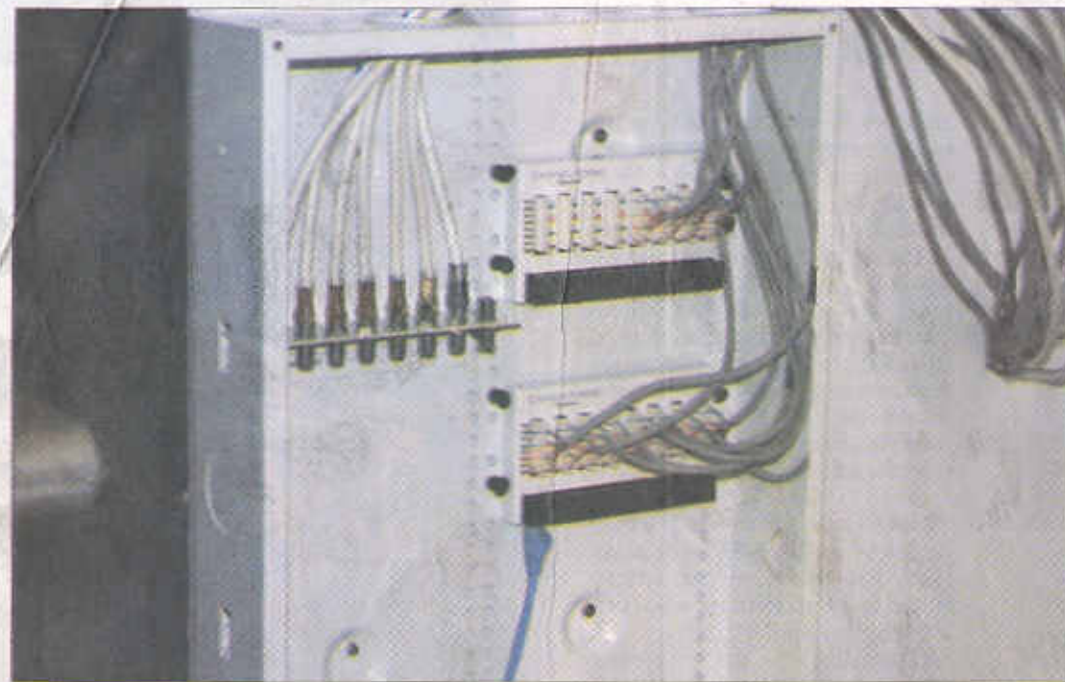
WHILE planning our house, we think of the woodwork, flooring, wall paint, wallpaper among others. But how many of us spare a thought to buying right kind of electrical wiring, whose quality would ensure safety or lack of it in a house? According to Anil Gupta, chairman and managing director of KEI Industries, a cable manufacturing company, "It is essential to have proper wiring in your dream house as it is a very important place in every person's life, where memories are made. To provide safety to your loved ones, you must not compromise on the quality of wires." KEI has recently launched multi-strand flexible house wires with fire-resistant properties. It has introduced Homecab, ConFlame and Banfire wires with an insurance cover.

If you are careful and follow a few safety tips, wiring is among the most predictable, pleasant parts of construction. Moreover, you are never in doubt whether

you have wirings done the right way. One should always buy good quality household wires, which carry ISI mark. Homeowners should identify locations for switchboards in advance so that they would not obstruct while decorating rooms and proper earthing should be done for the entire house. Moreover, each power board should have separate fuse and joints should be properly covered.

The entire network and material should be designed to avoid unnecessary or excess power losses during transmission. Most of the accidental fires occur due to short circuit. So, one should avoid overloaded electrical outlets and circuits. Overloaded outlets and circuits carry too much electricity, which generates a lot of heat, causing the internal wiring system to wear off.

All wiring systems should have circuit breakers or fuses that disconnect power when circuits become overloaded. Give special consideration to appliances that use 1,000 or more watts, such as air conditioners, refrigerators, hot plates, irons,



microwave ovens, dishwashers, heaters, and deep fryers. Avoid plugging them into the same outlet or circuits. One should also remember not to exceed 1,500 watts for each outlet or circuit. Wattage requirements are listed in appliance manufac-

turers' instruction. Use fuse wire/switch to save the electrical network in case of overloads and short circuits, which occur due to accidental contact of one phase with the other or with neutral or phase with earth wire. These conditions apply more to

bathrooms. V Krishnamurthy, head of marketing, Hindware, says, "Bathrooms are unique in the home when it comes to electrical wiring. By nature, bathrooms have damp environments and are considered to be a 'special location' for

electrical installations because they have an increased risk of electric shock for the users due to the presence of water. Providing electric circuits to bathrooms is not the same as other parts of the house. Bathrooms are humid so the wiring must be resistant to water and also proper ventilation must be provided."

"We must always get the wiring done by professional electricians, as improper wiring will create a high risk of electric shock in bathrooms. Care should be taken not to let the live electrical wires near the water areas. Such items should be routed through the non-water areas of the bathroom. Along with proper wiring, taking safety measures like avoiding contact with switches and cables with wet hands, become imperative. Also check for any loose connections and open joints," he added.

So, next time pay attention to your home wiring, no matter where, how and when your dream house is built. ■