



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 introduced, which continues to be used today, is as follows:

	Copper (AWG)	Copper-Clad Aluminum (AWG)
White	14	12
Yellow	12	10
Orange	10	8

There is no specific color code in use for NM-B cable with conductors sized 8 AWG copper (6 AWG copper-clad aluminum) and larger. These larger sizes are commonly available with black jackets.

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

It should be noted 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 as required by the UL standard and the *NEC*[®] should be used to verify the conductor size.

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