

CLIENT HELP SHEET

Understanding Green Goo in Electrical Cabling

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What is "Green Goo"?

"Green goo" is a sticky, green, jelly-like substance that can sometimes be found seeping from electrical sockets, switches, or light fittings. It's not a product defect or a pest issue, this substance is the result of a chemical reaction taking place inside certain old electrical cables.

Where Does It Come From?

This issue primarily affects PVC-insulated cabling that was manufactured and installed during the 1960s and 1970s. During this period, a plasticiser (a substance used to make PVC flexible) was used in the cable insulation. Over time, this plasticiser has reacted with copper conductors inside the cables, resulting in the formation of the green goo.

The reaction can be accelerated by heat (such as from overloaded circuits), age, and the overall environment the cable is installed in.

What Does Green Goo Look Like?

- A green, greasy, or waxy substance
- Often found inside sockets, switches, light fittings, or even running along the cable sheath
- May appear as a sticky residue or in hardened clumps

Why is it a Problem?

- **Electrical Hazards:** Green goo can compromise insulation and lead to short circuits or even electric shocks.
- **Equipment Damage:** It may corrode electrical contacts and damage switches, sockets, and light fittings.
- **Health & Safety:** It's not highly toxic, but it should be avoided and not touched without protection.
- **Ongoing Deterioration:** Once it appears, the condition of the wiring will continue to degrade over time.

Can It Be Fixed?

Unfortunately, there is no effective long-term repair for green goo in affected wiring. The only reliable solution is to rewire the property using modern, safe materials that comply with current electrical standards.

What Can Be Done in the Short Term?

If green goo is discovered:

- **Do not attempt to clean or fix the problem yourself.**

Contact a qualified electrician immediately for:

- **Insulation resistance** testing to check how the cable's insulation is performing
- **Visual inspections** to assess how widespread the problem is

If the problem is minor or isolated, the electrician may advise monitoring the condition temporarily.

- **12-Month Inspections:** Where full rewiring isn't immediately possible, a qualified electrician can conduct annual visual checks and tests to monitor the deterioration and ensure ongoing safety.

Need Help or Advice?

If you're concerned about your wiring or suspect green goo in your property, our qualified electricians can assess the situation and recommend the best course of action.



Your Local Electrician – Precision Electrical Services Ltd

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