

Hello fellow wireman. I said I'd try to keep you informed as things come up. So, here's the latest. Don't worry, this should be relatively painless.

Since I do not typically do the final inspections for residential projects, I have not caught on to the fact that some electric appliances, such as water heaters and dishwashers, have often not been provided the required disconnecting means. The NEC states in 422.31(B) that for permanently connected appliances rated over 300 volt-amps or 1/8 hp, the panel breaker can only serve as the sole disconnecting means if it is within sight of the appliance or is capable of being locked open. This lockable provision is to be a permanent installation. Therefore, it must be in place even when not in use.

I had not caught on to this during the rough inspection. Often there is a box with a whip hanging out of it in the space the water heater will occupy. Since I often did the same thing, making up a switch later, I wasn't thinking of a means of disconnect not being provided. What I did was provide a 30A switch with a lock clasp over the wall plate. For me, this was inexpensive and easy, as well as adequate for the intention of opening power for maintenance or repair.

All inspectors are now aware of this code and will be looking for it from now on.

If you did not receive the letter regarding Ufer ground requirements, please let me know ASAP so that I can get that to you. Thank you for your cooperation in bringing our trade community up to date. I hope Spring finds you busy.

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'The Code is the absolute worst job one can legally get away with.'