

Electric Service Cable Replacement Frequently Asked Questions

- **Do I need a permit?**

Yes. An electrical permit is required in Willingboro Township prior to beginning work. The permit includes the inspection fee for the service.

- **What is a Service Cable?**

It is the main cable that brings electricity into your home. Generally, the service cable has two hot wires inside a sheath of smaller wires that are gathered to form a ground when the line enters your meter and the meter into the services panel.

- **Is the utility company responsible for the electric service?**

The electric company is responsible for the service from their poles to the point of attachment at the house connection (usually the highest part - near the roof). You are responsible for the service cable from that point to where it goes into the meter and from the meter into the panel box.

- **How do I know if the service cable needs to be replaced?**

The cable needs to be replaced if the cloth braiding around the wires is frayed or fraying, or if wires are exposed.

- **Can I place duct tape or electrical tape around the cable?**

No. Neither duct tape nor electrical tape provides a waterproof, durable repair.

- **What does replacing the service cable entail?**

The licensed electrician will disconnect the house service from the utility service feed to the property. The old service wire from the point of attachment and from the meter into the service panel will be removed. Once all the service entrance conductors are removed, the new service conductors and straps will be installed to code. The electrician will temporarily reconnect the dwelling services cables to the utility service at the point of attachment to the house, and the dwelling power will be restored. An inspection will be conducted.

- **Can I replace the service cable myself?**

The owner of a single-family dwelling where they live is permitted to perform electrical work. The replacement of the service conductors requires working with live unfused power lines, which is extremely dangerous. It is recommended that you hire an NJ Licensed Electrical Contractor to perform this type of work.

If you have further questions, contact the Inspections Department at 609-877-2200, ext. 1016.

