

ARTICLE 200, USE AND IDENTIFICATION OF GROUNDED CONDUCTORS

A “grounded” conductor, as defined in the National Electrical Code, has two distinct properties:

1. It is a current-carrying conductor (a part of the circuit that carries electricity).
2. It is connected at some point to the earth, generally at an electrical service.

It is important to understand that a *grounded* conductor is not the same as a *grounding* conductor. Grounding conductors do not carry current except in a fault condition; that is, when an *ungrounded* current-carrying conductor makes unintentional contact with anything connected to that grounding conductor. Grounded conductors, on the other hand, are simply parts of a normal circuit path that are intentionally connected to earth.

Article 200 requires grounded conductors to be identified by a white or gray color. Terminals for grounded conductors on receptacles, plugs, connectors, and lampholders must be marked by the manufacturer with a white color, the letter “W”, or the word “white”. Alternatively, grounding conductors and terminals are always identified with a green color.

200.1	Scope <i>what the article is about</i>
200.2	General <i>insulation & continuity</i>
200.3	Connection to Grounded System <i>grounded premises system must connect to grounded supply system</i>
200.4	Neutral Conductors <i>association with ungrounded conductors</i>
200.6	Means of Identifying Grounded Conductors <i>marking & color-coding</i>
200.7	Use of White or Gray Color <i>when allowed for other than grounded conductors</i>
200.9-10	Means of Identification of Terminals <i>terminals, lugs, lampholders, pigtails, appliances</i>
200.11	Polarity of Connections <i>yes, it matters</i>