

## Re: Bought a house with a Fuse Box. Should I replace with a Circuit Breaker?

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.basics/2005-02/0887.html>

---

**From:** Larry Brasfield ([donotspam\\_larry\\_brasfield\\_at\\_hotmail.com](mailto:donotspam_larry_brasfield_at_hotmail.com))

**Date:** 02/18/05

Date: Fri, 18 Feb 2005 10:56:41 -0800

"Zack Schneeberger" <[schneebie1@hotmail.com](mailto:schneebie1@hotmail.com)> wrote in message news:1108751259.464754.124160@c13g2000cwb.googlegroups.com...  
> *I just bought a house that is wired through a Fuse Box. The outlets in*  
> *the entire house are the old-style 2 prong outlets. In order to run an*  
> *appliance that requires a ground I have to get a 3 to 2 prong adapter*  
> *and run the appliance unprotected.*

It is you (and other creatures in the same house) that is unprotected. Appliances will usually run just fine with their chassis at 120 VAC due to a fault.

> *My question is, should I upgrade the fuse box and replace it with a*  
> *circuit breaker. If I did so, would I need to replace every wire in my*  
> *entire house or could I just run a ground wire up to every outlet and*  
> *install a 3 prong outlet?*

That is a question about local code. From a safety standpoint, your separate ground wire should work provided the diameter is larger (smaller AWG). If you are going to get into the walls, why not just install regular 3-wire romex?

> *Also, I worked for an electrician during a summer so I have a general*  
> *understanding of wiring. Could I do this job myself?*

Most jurisdictions have no problem with DIYers, as long as their work conforms to the applicable codes and the is done under a permit with required inspections.

Just get yourself a decent, recent book showing how to wire to the NEC. Give the building department a call and ask if they have local exceptions to the NEC that you should worry about for a home wiring job. In all likelihood, they have not bothered to create a local modification of the NEC.

sci.electronics.basics: Re: Bought a house with a Fuse Box. Should I replace with a Circuit Breaker?

> *Zack*

--

--Larry Brasfield

email: donotspam\_larry\_brasfield@hotmail.com

Above views may belong only to me.