

What's Wrong Here?

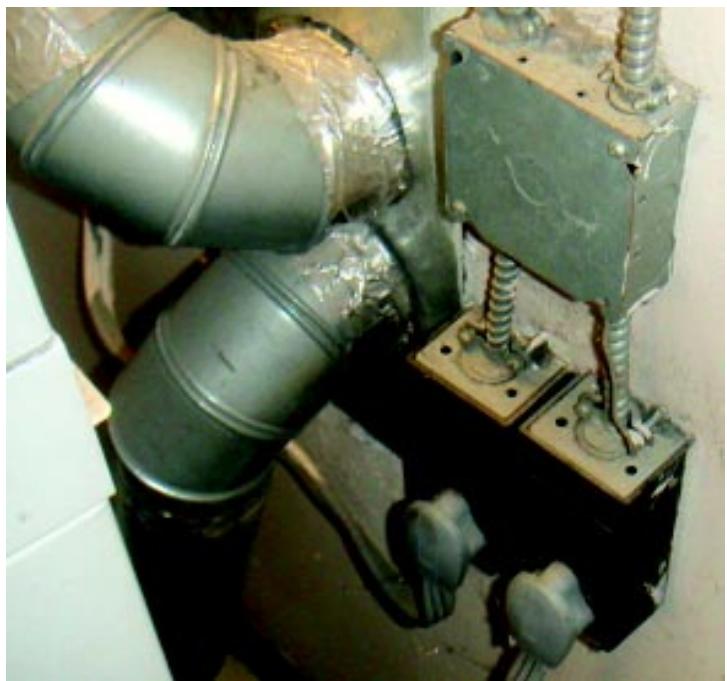
By Joe Tedesco, NEC Columnist

How well do you know the Code? Can you spot violations that the original installer either ignored or couldn't identify himself? Here's your chance to second-guess someone else's work from the safety of your living room or office. Our NEC meister Joe Tedesco has done the dirty work and found the violation. Now it's your turn to tell us what it is. Be one of the first three people to identify the violation in this picture—in 25 words or less—and we'll line your pockets with a little cash. But don't just recite the Code. Make it interesting. Add a little flair. Send your response to Joe at 350 North St., Boston, MA, 02113 or e-mail it to CodeViolations@JoeTedesco.com. Include your company name, title, address, and contact information.

Hint: This is a flexible cord assembly used to supply temporary stage equipment in the ballroom of a major New Orleans hotel.



April Winners



Electrical Technology Level 3 students Brett Stratton, Jason Landry, Michael Schwinn, and Steven Raymond from the Pinkerton Academy, Derry, N.H., sent in the following correct response. We always thought *EC&M* could come in handy in the classroom.

"If the wires are under-sized for the dryers, and they appear to be, they're in violation of 220.18, which requires the installer to calculate the load based on 5,000W or the nameplate rating on the dryer, whichever is larger. In addition, the size of the junction box is woefully undersized for the conductors, which should contain 12 10 AWG wires, according to 314.16(A). The other problem that's evident from the picture is that the dryers are equipped with a 3-wire cord. If they've been installed recently and aren't located in a mobile home or a recreational vehicle, then they are in violation of 250.140, which requires the use of a 4-wire connection to the outlet."

There also appears to be some kind of funky grounding wire externally attached to the outlet on the right. Who knows what this was designed for?