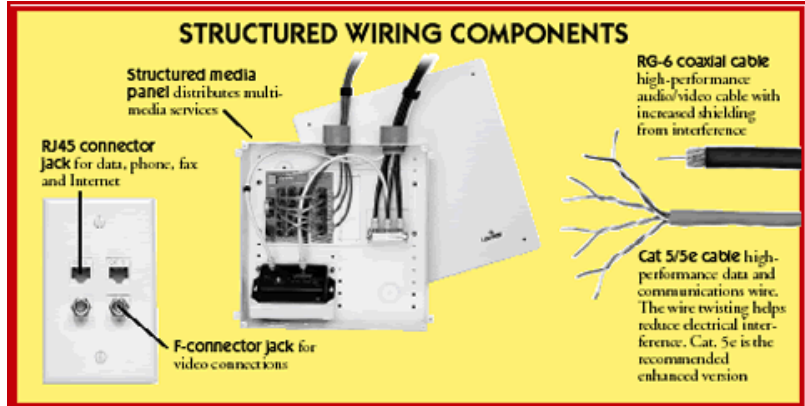


Buying a New Home? Think Structured Wiring

Planning on buying a new home? Now is a golden opportunity to install a structured wiring system that will let you take advantage of the latest home entertainment, computing and audio and video technologies. The system links every room in your home to a central source for TV, phone, fax, Internet and computer networking, stereo, and other media resources you might use.



Each room link provides wallplates with a variety of connectivity jacks: RJ45 jacks for phone, fax, Internet and home networking connections; Fconnector jacks for video distribution; and RCA jacks for audio delivery are the most common types.

What is structured wiring?

In a structured wiring system, every jack connects over its own direct run of high-capacity cable to a structured media panel box, the central distribution point for all services.

Bringing all cabling back to this one point (known as “home run” wiring) allows connections to be routed quickly and inexpensively. Should you want to connect up a new home office or send cable signals to a TV in a new location, it will only take minutes instead of hours or days.

The “direct runs” are either Cat 5 or Cat 5e cabling (“e” for enhanced, the preferred choice) for data or RG-6 coaxial cabling for audio/video. These cables are essential for today’s high bandwidth data communication and entertainment needs in the home.

Check with your builder

The Leviton Institute recommends you ask your building contractor about the following considerations:

- Will a certified installer be used? Ask if your building contractor uses certified structured wiring personnel to ensure the highest quality system is installed.
- Will you receive a warranty? Verify that your installer backs his work with a strong parts and performance warranty that protects your system against defects in material and workmanship.
- Will there be enough jacks? Make sure your structured wiring installation provides all the jacks required for the services you want. For example, in the home theater or media room, you’ll need jacks for receiving signals and jacks for routing signals back to the structured media panel for distribution elsewhere in the home.
- Will the installation be “future-proofed”? Anticipate your future connectivity needs by running more wires than you currently need. Right now is the easiest, most economical time to run wires to every location. One day when you’re remodeling, you’ll be glad you did.