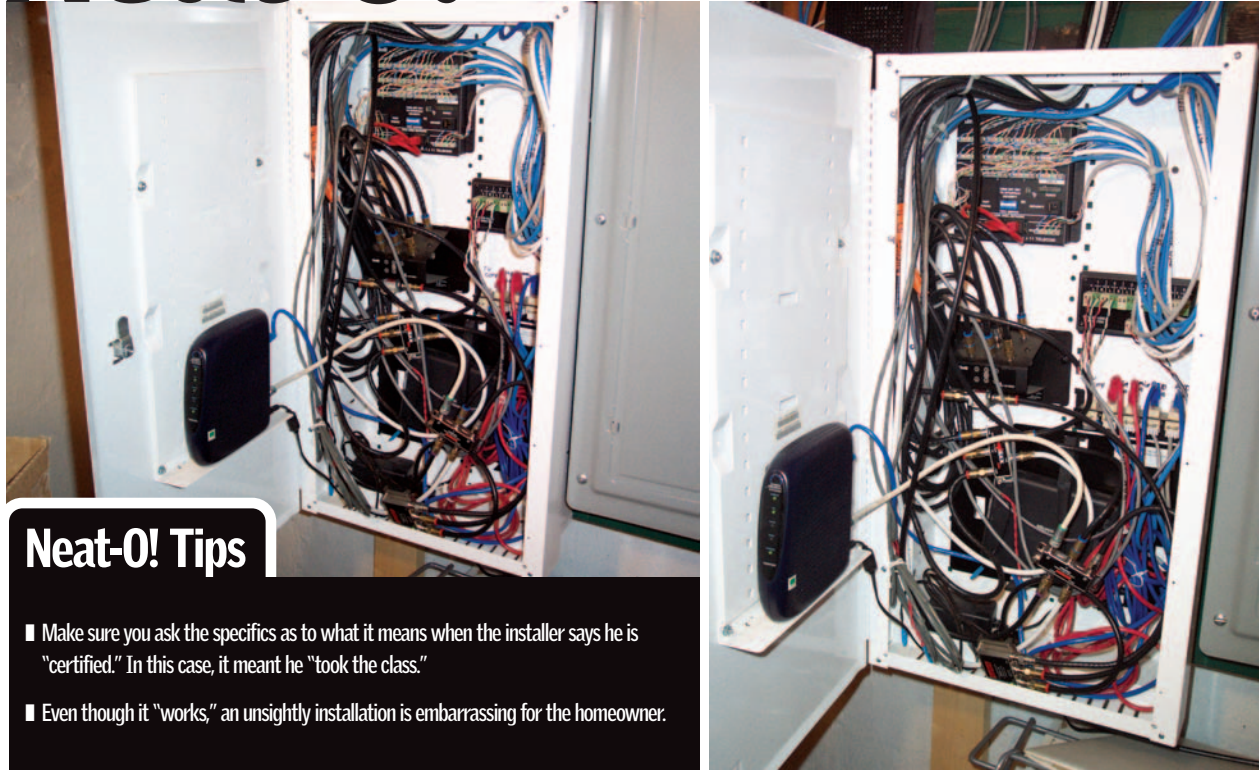


Neat-0!



Neat-0! Tips

- Make sure you ask the specifics as to what it means when the installer says he is "certified." In this case, it meant he "took the class."
- Even though it "works," an unsightly installation is embarrassing for the homeowner.



Sad, but true ... this is the structured wiring enclosure in my home. Readers may recall several years ago when I described the trials and tribulations of the installation itself by a local alarm company. Living in a small town, I did not have many options for the retrofit job. The job itself presented a few difficult challenges. Namely, the house is constructed using only 2x3 studs versus 2x4s. Also, there was, apparently, no easy access to the attic, which would have been useful in dropping wires down into the third-floor bedrooms. The only solution was to remove some wood that surrounds the central chimney stack, run the cables up the exterior of the brick and then replace the wood.

In all, the installer took more than a

week-and-a-half to mount the box in the basement and run coax and two Cat 5s to five separate locations in the converted barn, circa 1875. The two-man installation crew only worked from about 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on each of those seven days, minus a one-hour lunch break and a 30-minute daily visit to the commode. Because the contractor was asked to leave, the job was never finished, so this messy panel is now the result.

The mass of tangled wires created quite a challenge for the IT consultant that I brought in later to properly punch down the terminals, but he opted not to

Above photos: This is the structured wiring enclosure done by the "certified" installer at the home of *CE Pro* editor Jason Knott.

try to address the spaghetti of wires in the enclosure (nor was he asked to.)

Embarrassingly, I have chosen to do nothing with the system because "it works." However, I sure don't invite any guests into the basement to check out "my structured wiring job."

The ugliness of the install only confirmed what I already knew, which is that the "certified" installer did not know what he was doing. —*Jason Knott*



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