

What kinds of problems might you have as a result of these double taps in your electrical panel?

First of all, let me explain what double tapping is. Double tapping is when two wires are placed under the same screw on the breaker protecting the circuit. Unless the breaker in your electrical panel specifies that you can place two wires on the same breaker, it's against the Canadian Electrical Code.

The practice of double tapping is usually used when all the breakers in your electrical panel are used and there's no room to install additional breakers. Listed below are problems that can occur when a breaker is double tapped.

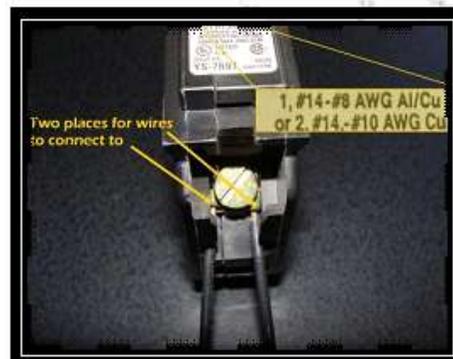
A breaker is only made and designed for one wire. If you add a second wire, one wire will be held tighter and have a better connection than the other.



Furthermore, the wires could come loose at some point, one or both wires could have poor contact and/or circuit overloading can occur even if they feel very tight today. This can lead to over-heating, arcing, and possibly a fire.

Double tapped wiring is okay if the circuit breaker is designed for two conductors.

One possible fix is to replace the double tapped breaker with a tandem breaker if the panel-board will accept it. This is basically a way to install two circuit breakers in one space.



If you have any questions, you can contact me at <http://www.mccelectric.ca/contact-mcc> or (506) 651-5168