

INSTALL A LIGHT DIMMER



Installation of light dimmer switch is quick and easy. Light dimmers save energy and extend the life of your light bulb.

Tools required : Screwdriver, circuit tester, wire strippers, wire connectors, and electrical tape

INSTALLATION

Before installation, make note of the following:

- Select the right dimmer for the light bulb you have. Dimmer works well with incandescent lights. Certain lights, however, like florescent and electronic low-voltage lights require special dimmers. If use energy saving CFL, make sure to purchase CFLs that are made for dimmers.
- Determine the number lights will be on the circuit. Add up the wattage of those lights to determine the total wattage that the dimmer needs to handle. Select a dimmer switch that can handle the total wattage of your lighting load.

HOW TO

Step 1: Turn off the power to the light switch at the main breaker box. The breaker box is typically found in the basement of the house.

Step 2: Remove the faceplate of the light switch with a screwdriver. Check the switch with a circuit tester to ensure the power is off.

Step 3: Once you determine the power is off, disconnect the wires connected to the switch (make note of where the wires were connected to the old switch).

Step 4: Check the dimmer installation manual to determine how much wire insulation to remove from the wires (typically between 3/8 to 5/8 of an inch). Trip the insulation with a pair of wire strippers.

Step 5: Before installing the dimmer switch, make note of which side is the top and which is bottom. Connect the wires from the house to the dimmer. If your dimmer switch has lead wires, connect them to the house wires with wire connectors, then wrap them with electrical tape. Similarly, connect the dimmer ground wire to the ground connection in the box, and wrap with electrical tape.

Step 6: Tuck the wires into the box, and attach the dimmer into the box using mounting screws. Then, add the faceplate.

Step 7: Turn on the power to the light switch at the breaker box, and test the light using the dimmer switch. If the dimmer switch does not work, turn off the power and check the wire connections.

When you are done, adjust the light to your desired brightness.