

Installing A Ceiling Fan



by Ron Specht

A ceiling fan is an excellent addition to any room that will add a functional purpose as well as a decorative touch.

They are especially useful in the summer creating a cool breeze while reducing energy costs by giving your air conditioner a break.

They are also useful in the winter to gently recirculate heated air that rises to the ceiling. A light kit can also be added which increases the usefulness of your new fixture.

There are a wide range of models to choose from that will fit any room, style, and budget. Consult with an expert in the electrical department of your local home improvement store to see which one will best fit your needs.

Before you begin, determine the optimal location of your fan. If there is not an existing light fixture, I suggest you call in a professional electrician to run a new wire.

On this project we called on Ray Weaver with MAY Electric. They were able to tie into an existing outlet without overloading that circuit. A new wire and mounting box had to be installed before we could proceed.



When working with electricity always **turn the power off** at the main service panel. Use a tester to be sure the power is off before proceeding.



You could also **put tape over the breaker** so that no one will accidentally turn it in on while you are working.

Installing the New Fan

Always read the manufacturer's instructions carefully before installing.



Use a metal box that is made to support a ceiling fan and be sure it is securely fastened to the ceiling joist. Never use a plastic box. There are also metal box and brace kits available if needed.

Attach the mounting plate that is supplied with the fan. Be sure the wires are in the center hole of the bracket and are not pinched. Tighten the bracket mounting screws and attach the ground wire.



Hang the fan motor from the built-in hook on the mounting plate. Connect the wires accordingly, black to black, white to white, and ground to green.



Using the fasteners supplied with the fan, place the fan motor onto the mounting bracket and tighten the nuts securely. Attach the decorative canopy to the mounting bracket and tighten the screws.



Attach the fan blades to the motor with the screws and washers provided. Hold off on tightening the screws until all the fan blades are in place.



If there is a light kit install it at this time. Be sure to follow instructions supplied by the manufacturer. Be sure to check that all the screws and fasteners are tightened securely, and then turn on the power to test the fan and light. Enjoy your new fan!

If you have a question about this project or any other home improvement project, e-mail me at ron.specht@yourhomecolumbus.com.