

5 Tips for Ceiling Fan Installation and Use

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It's the big day! Your new ceiling fan has arrived, and you're ready to install it. Of course, the performance and energy efficiency of your beautiful new ceiling fan depends on proper ceiling fan installation and use.

Here are five important tips to help ensure the safe and efficient long-term performance of your ceiling fan.

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You should read and be sure you clearly understand the manufacturer's instructions before installing a ceiling fan. As with any other electrical device or mechanical equipment, consumers should take the time to read the recommendations and stipulations in the warranty, the user manual, and any other written materials provided by the manufacturer. Neglecting to adhere to some or all requirements for installation and use of a ceiling fan may void the warranty in some cases. Ideally, you should have professional installation of electrical equipment in your home, including ceiling fans.

Use the Correct UL-Rated Electrical Box

Be sure that you are using the compatible UL-listed metal outlet box labeled for installation with ceiling fans. The correct box will mount *above* the ceiling and serve as the connection box for the fan. This box will house all the wiring for connecting and operating your ceiling fan. To replace an existing ceiling light fixture or another ceiling fan with a new ceiling fan, you will probably need to replace the existing electrical box.

Because of the electrical parts and connections that must be managed correctly for electrical safety and proper functioning of a ceiling fan, it is recommended that you have a qualified electrician install a ceiling fan or other electrical fixtures in the ceiling.

Be Sure Your Ceiling Fan is Anchored Safely

Ceiling fans are heavy. Insufficient anchoring causes a safety hazard and risks damage or destruction of the fan and other property. Ideally, the fan should be anchored into a ceiling rafter or truss or the bottom of a floor joist supporting the room above.

If a ceiling fan mounting hardware is included with the product, follow the manufacturer's instructions to use the enclosed parts for installation. If the enclosed mounting bracket has ends with spikes, secure the bracket between the rafters to create the stable mount needed for the safe operation of your ceiling fan. For heavier ceiling fans, up to as much as 50 pounds or more, using this hardware will distribute the fan's weight and the vibration from the fan motor.

Make Adjustments to Balance a Wobbling Ceiling Fan

Fan blades are balanced as part of the manufacturing process prior to shipping. But, here are two approaches (A and B) to try if your fan is wobbling after it is installed:

A. Balance the fan blades:

- Inspect to ensure *all* connectors are properly aligned.
- Check to make sure all connections are fastened tightly.
- Use a straight edge tool to inspect the fan blades for proper alignment.
- If a blade *holder* is bent, you can try carefully bending it back into its proper place.

B. Use a Balancing Kit:

If the fan blades are properly aligned after ceiling fan installation, use a special balancing kit to identify the cause of the wobbling. A balancing kit may be provided in the product packaging. For example, you may find balancing clips along with blade weights enclosed in the package. If not, you can usually contact the manufacturer and have the balancing kit sent to you at no cost.

Change Your Ceiling Fan Direction in Summer and Winter

Change the setting for the fan blade spin direction on your ceiling fan for the hot and cold seasons of the year to maximize comfort all year long, as well as the energy savings benefits of using a ceiling fan in combination with your home's HVAC system.

In Summer

Set your ceiling fan blades spin in the counterclockwise direction (right to left) in hot weather. This creates a downward draft that feels like a cool breeze below the fan. This airflow generates a cooling effect on the skin, which makes the room feel cooler. That means you can set your air conditioner to run less and still stay cool.

In Winter

In cold months, change the direction of the ceiling fan blades spin to clockwise (left to right). Be sure to run the fan at low speed. This creates an upward draft, driving warm air that hovers at the ceiling outward and down the walls and back out into the room. This helps distribute heat more evenly throughout the room for improved comfort and more efficient heating!

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