

How to Replace a Light Switch

You don't have to be an electrician to replace a light switch. You just have to remember the first step: make sure the power is off. Since not everyone feels comfortable working with electricity, use this guide to help you decide whether you should DIY or hire a guy.



Materials Required:

- New Light Switch
- Flat Tip Screwdriver
- Voltage Tester
- Access to the Housebreaker

Steps:

- 1 Turn off the power by locating your housebreaker and shutting the power off to the room you will be working in.
- 2 Remove the old light switch cover using a flat tip screwdriver.
- 3 Use a voltage tester to double check that there is no power going to the light switch before you start work. If you hear a beep when you place the tester on the wire, go back to the breaker and make sure the power is turned off.
- 4 Once the power is off, pull the switch out using a screwdriver.
- 5 There will be two visible wires that will need to be disconnected from the old switch. Do this by loosening the screws on the side of the switch.
*Note: In a newer home, a third wire will be coiled around a blue screw on the original switch. This wire is the ground wire, and it will need to be reattached to the new switch. In an older home, the ground wire will not be available to reconnect. *Call an electrician if you are unsure about the wires.*
- 6 Attach the wires to the new light switch by tightening the screws.
- 7 Ensure there is a tight connection, and place the light switch back into the wall.
- 8 Secure the cover plate.
- 9 Turn the electricity back on and test the new switch.

 HomeAdvisor Tip: If you live in an older home, it's best to call a professional to work on the electricity.