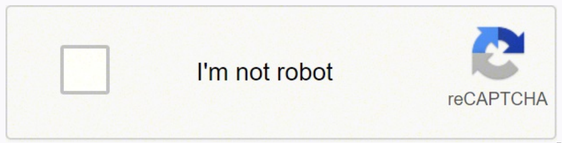

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How to use ceiling fan remote control

Skip to contentCeiling fans can be controlled in 3 different ways – pull cord, wall controls or remote controls. Remotes can be very useful in certain circumstances, but are not always necessary.When you may need a remoteTricky installationOften installation may be a bit tricky – you have a concrete ceiling and another floor above so you can't add any extra wiring or can add wiring in the ceiling but you can't do wiring down the wall. In these cases, a remote will often make installation possible. In the first scenario, you may replace the light with a fan and light and use the existing wiring. In the second scenario, you may add wiring in the ceiling but not need to run wiring down the wall.Bedrooms and convenienceOften remotes can be really convenient, especially in bedrooms, if you want to be able to change the speed settings without getting up!Remote facts:Radio Frequency vs Infrared- These days many remotes work on radio frequency – which means they are able to be replaced if they do break down or get lost. It also means you can have several fans in one room or one house and the remotes won't interfere with each other! Or, if you do want to them to all go on at the same time, you can set the same frequency and achieve this. Infrared fan remotes are not as easily replaced and work by pointed at the fan, so depending on how your fans are installed, you may get interference with one and another, and you usually don't have the option of setting several to work from one remote handset.Remote functions – All fan remotes come with various speeds for the fan (normally 3, but some more) and an on/off button for a light in case you have a fan with a light. Some remotes also come with dimmers for the lights, and timers for the fan. Your remote options will depend on the fan you pick – please feel free to contact our sales staff if you are after something in particular and they can give you some options. A very limited range of ceiling fans also have the reverse direction function on the remote, please contact our staff for more details.Brackets – Most remotes come with a wall bracket so you can keep them on the wall, making it less likely to lose them!Fan and light controlled separately – Using a remote does not mean you will turn on both your fan and fan light at the same time! They can still be controlled separately. In fact, depending on your situation, you may be able to get your electrician to keep the light on a wall switch, and only wire the remote to the fan.Can any fan have a remote? YES! (pretty much.) Some fans come with remotes already included, but many come with the pull cord or wall control included. However, the vast majority of fans can have a remote added as an accessory.Wall control AND remote? – No! You can only have one type of control, for example if your fan comes with a wall control but you buy a remote, you will only be able to use the remote. If you buy a fan with a pull cord and you buy a remote, again you can only use the remote and it's important not to pull the pull cord as it will put the fan on a lower setting, and all your speeds will be slower.DC ceiling fans – All DC ceiling fans are remote controlled only which means that they all come with a remote included and cannot be controlled by a wall control or pull cord.**This article is written for general information. For specific requirements you may have and any questions please seek professional advice by either calling our sales consultants or consulting your electrician.** Shop Ceiling Fans With Remote Skip to main content Home House & Components Parts of House Ceiling Old ceiling fans may have inconvenient pull chains, make noise or need repairs. One easy fix is to install a ceiling fan remote control. You may also need to replace broken parts. CapacitorCeiling fan switchRemote control for ceiling fanWire nuts In this easy DIY project, we'll show you how to change a ceiling fan by adding a remote. For starters, slide the ceiling fan remote receiver into the space above the down rod. If it doesn't fit, try other locations inside the canopy. How to Balance a Ceiling Fan Set the transmitter Flip the DIP switches to change the transmitter frequency if you have problems with interference. The switch positions on both ceiling fan remote units must match. There are many "universal" ceiling fan remote control kits on the market for overhead fans controlled by pull chains and a singe wall switch. All of them feature on/off and fan speed control. Others also offer light-dimming and thermostatic control capabilities. But whether you can use a ceiling fan remote kit depends on the amount of free space inside the fan canopy. Many "ceiling hugger"–style fans have enough free space for the receiver for the ceiling fan remote. But "down-rod" styles may not. Shut off the circuit breaker to the fan and lower the canopy (use a voltage sniffer to make sure the power is really off). Check the fit of the receiver before you commit to wiring it in permanently. Keep your receipt just in case. With the power off, connect the hot and neutral wires to the "AC-in" wires on the receiver. Then connect the three remaining wires to the fan and light (they're labeled by the manufacturer). If you have neighbors nearby, you may have to change the frequency on the ceiling fan remote transmitter and receiver to prevent you or your neighbors from controlling one another's fans. With Ceiling Fans, You Get What You Pay For Complete DIY projects like a pro! Sign up for our newsletter! Do It Right, Do It Yourself! Fixing ceiling fan problems: Remove the capacitor Reach into the housing and gently pull out the capacitor. Untangle it from the other wires. Then cut the capacitor lead wires one at a time, or remove the wire nuts and cut off the wire strands. How to Fix a Wobbly Ceiling Fan Shop for a new capacitor and switch Note the number of wires and the microfarad (uf) rating on the old capacitor. Buy a new one with the same number of wires and uf rating. How to Install Ceiling Fans Insert the capacitor, then the wires Apply double-sided foam tape to the capacitor and stick it to the housing cap. Then pack the wires into the center, making sure the wire nuts stay connected. A ceiling fan can run nonstop for years without a hint of a problem. Then, out of the blue, it can quit completely, stop working on some speeds or start making a loud humming sound. You may think the motor is shot, but it's probably not. Those are all symptoms of a burned-out capacitor. The capacitor and the pull chain switch are the only two components that control the fan speeds. Switches rarely wear out. But they can break if you pull the chain too hard or it gets caught in the blades. You can hedge your bets and replace both the capacitor and the switch in less than an hour for about $20. Here's how. Start by shutting off the power to the fan and the lights (if equipped). You'll have to gain access to the housing where the speed and direction switches are located. In fans without lights, just remove the bottom cover. Double-check the power with a voltage sniffer before you stick your fingers in the housing. If your fan has lights, remove the globes and bulbs. Then remove the light kit. That'll expose the wiring in the housing. Next, remove the capacitor. A burned-out capacitor might have a burned smell, swollen sides or scorch marks. Those are sure signs it's bad. But even if yours appears to be in good shape, replace it anyway because it's still the most likely cause of your speed/humming problem. If you have any doubts about the fan switch, replace it, too. Remove the pull-chain switch by unscrewing the knurled outer knob. Pull the switch into the housing and disconnect the wires. Take both pieces to a ceiling fan or appliance parts store to get replacements. If you don't have a local source for parts, go to eceilingfans.com. Click on the "Capacitors" or "Wall Switches" tab to match each to a replacement. Finish the job by connecting the new parts and tucking everything back into the housing. Choosing a Whole House Fan Fixing A Ceiling Fan Remote Control Ceiling fans with factory remote controls don't use traditional capacitors to control fan speed. The remote receiver varies the voltage and current to change the fan motor speed. But ceiling fan remote control units can go bad too. Before you even think about tearing the fan apart to diagnose a problem, replace the batteries in the transmitter first. Then press the transmitter buttons to see if the LEDs light up. If you're not sure whether the problem is in the transmitter or receiver, you can send both units to eceilingfans.com for testing (testing and repair usually run about $25). The receiver is usually tucked into the fan's mounting bracket, which is connected to the electrical box. This Fan Trick Can Keep Your House Warm All Winter Long Originally Published: December 17, 2018 Jump to Specific Section1Is the Ceiling Fan Remote in Range?A remote control designed for use with a ceiling fan contains a transmitter. When operating properly, the remote transmitter sends a signal to a receiver in the ceiling fan that gives the fan simple instructions. Is you ceiling fan remote not working? Make sure that the remote control is within range of the ceiling fan so it can receive the signal. Many fans have ranges of more than 40-feet, but to test one, be sure to bring the control within 10- or 20-feet of the fan. In addition, make sure there's no obstruction between the remote control and the fan, such as a piece of furniture, to make sure the fan can receive the signal. If the ceiling fan remote control only works at very close range, the batteries in the remote may have a low charge and need to be replaced.Tip: If you're testing a remote control in a large room that has multiple fans, make sure to use the correct remote. 2Does the Ceiling Fan Remote Have Batteries?Perhaps the most common cause for a ceiling fan remotes not working is either a lack of batteries or dead batteries. If your remote control has an indicator light, check to see if it comes on. If it doesn't, that's a good sign that it has a battery problem. Open the remote control battery cover. Make sure it has batteries and that they're in the correct position. Use a battery tester to make sure the batteries have a charge. If necessary, place fresh batteries in the remote control, close the cover and test the control.Tip: If the ceiling fan has pull cord "on" switch, make sure it's in the on position. If the ceiling fan is turned off at the fixture, the remote won't work. If the pull cord does not turn the fan on and off during the test, make sure that the circuit breaker for the fan is in the correct position.3Is the Ceiling Fan on the Correct Frequency?If the remote control is within range and has charged batteries, the ceiling fan and the remote control may not be on the right frequency. Ceiling fans have a dip (for "dual in-line package") switch for setting the frequency. Follow these steps to set or reset the frequency of the ceiling fan. Turn off the circuit breaker that provides power to the ceiling fan. Stand on a step ladder and use a screwdriver to detach the ceiling fan canopy from the mounting bracket. Locate the receiver and identify the dip switch settings, which should resemble four sliding buttons. Use a small screwdriver or ballpoint pen to slide the buttons and create a new frequency combination. Record the dip switch setting. Return the receiver to the ceiling fan and attach the canopy to the mounting bracket. Use the circuit breaker to turn the power back on.Tip: If you have multiple fans in a room that need to run separately, you may need to set separate frequencies using this method.4Is the Remote Control on the Correct Frequency?You also have to set the frequency with the dip switch on the remote control. Remove the batteries from the remote control. Remove the back of the remote control. You should be able to find and remove a small panel that covers the dip switches. As in the previous step, use a pen or screwdriver to slide the buttons to match the frequency of the ceiling fan receiver. Put the remote back together and replace the batteries. Try the remote control to make sure it properly operates the ceiling fan.Tip: If the ceiling fan still doesn't work, there may be a problem with the wire connections. 5Replacing a Ceiling Fan Remote ControlIf the ceiling fan remote is still not working after these steps, you should replace it. If you cannot find a remote control from the same brand as the ceiling fan, get a universal ceiling fan remote. If you need to install a wireless receiver in the fan, shut off the power, remove the canopy as described in step 4 and install the receiver according to manufacturer's instructions. Adjust the dip switch to match the frequency and reassemble the fan. Install the batteries into the new universal remote control. Turn on the fan and pair the universal remote to the fan by pressing the startup buttons according to the manufacturer's instructions.Ceiling fan remote troubleshooting will often reveal a problem with the batteries, but following all the steps may help you fix the issue. Troubleshooting your ceiling fan remote can ensure that the fan will continue to work with just the press of a button.Need help identifying a ceiling fan? Find products fast with image search in The Home Depot app. Snap a picture of an item you like and we'll show you similar products.

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