

Ceiling Fan Installation and Usage Tips

Ceiling fan performance and energy savings rely heavily on the proper installation and use of the ceiling fan. Here are a few tips to ensure quality and product performance.

Note: consumers should read and understand manufacturer instructions before attempting to install a ceiling fan.

- **Choosing the Appropriate UL-Rated Electrical Box.** Make sure that you use the appropriate UL-listed metal box, marked "For Use With Ceiling Fans." This outlet box is mounted above the ceiling and also is the point where the fan is attached. This box houses all wiring needed to operate and connect the ceiling fan. If you are replacing a ceiling fixture, most likely you will need to replace the electrical box.
- **Mounting the Ceiling Fan.** If possible, the ceiling fan should be anchored to a ceiling joist. In the case that the joist is not located in the center of the room, a special ceiling fan mounting bracket with spiked ends should be installed between joists. Keep in mind that ceiling fans can weigh as much as 50 pounds! For tips on installing a ceiling fan, click on the file below.
- **Balancing a Wobbly Fan.** All fan blades should be balanced prior to shipment; however, if the fan is wobbly after installation, there are ways to fix it. First, make sure that all connections are properly aligned and tightly fastened. Check the alignment of the blades by holding a yardstick vertically along the edges; you may be able to gently bend a misaligned blade holder back into proper place. If all blades are aligned, a balancing kit can then be used to pinpoint the culprit. These kits are either provided within product packaging (e.g., balancing clips and blade weights) or can be sent by the manufacturer free of charge a video with tips on fixing a wobbly fan.
- **Turn Off When not in the Room.** Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. If the room is unoccupied, turn off the ceiling fan to save energy.
- **Using the Ceiling Fan Year Round.** In the summer, use the ceiling fan in the counter-clockwise direction. The airflow produced by the ceiling fan creates a wind-chill effect, making you "feel" cooler. In the winter, reverse the motor and operate the ceiling fan at low speed in the clockwise direction. This produces a gentle updraft, which forces warm air near the ceiling down into the occupied space. Remember to adjust your thermostat when using your ceiling fan - additional energy and dollar savings could be realized with this simple step!

Reference:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=ceiling_fans.pr_ceiling_fans_usage