

Single Pole Switch Wiring Guide

A general installation guide for standard single pole switches used to control one light or one load from one location.

Scope	Standard single pole switches for one circuit controlled from one location.
Best for	Basic wall switch product pages.
Not for	3-way switches, 4-way switches, dimmers, smart switches, timers, or any device with extra leads or electronics.

Overview

A standard single pole switch does not wire like a receptacle. It is used to interrupt the hot conductor feeding a load. Because of that, the installer usually connects one hot feed conductor and one switched-load conductor to the switch terminals, plus ground.

Some switch boxes also contain neutral conductors for the circuit, but on a basic mechanical single pole switch the neutral typically does not terminate on the switch itself unless the product instructions say otherwise.

Recommended tools and materials
Voltage tester or multimeter
Flat and Phillips screwdrivers
Wire stripper and cutter
Needle-nose pliers
Wire connectors if a splice or pigtail is required
Wall plate and mounting screws

General Wiring Steps

Step	Action
1	Turn off the breaker and verify the switch box is de-energized.

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2	Remove the wall plate and old switch, then identify the line hot conductor and the conductor going to the light or load.
3	If needed, label the wires before disconnecting the old device so the incoming hot and switched-load conductors are not confused.
4	Prepare the conductor ends to the strip length required by the new switch.
5	Connect the incoming hot conductor to one brass or dark terminal on the switch.
6	Connect the switched-load conductor to the other brass or dark terminal.
7	Connect the ground conductor to the green grounding terminal.
8	If neutral wires are present only as a splice in the box, keep them tied together with the existing connector unless the new device specifically requires a neutral connection.
9	Fold the wires neatly into the box, mount the switch, and install the wall plate.
10	Restore power and verify the switch turns the connected load on and off correctly.

Important installation notes

- This guide is for a standard single pole switch only.
- Do not use this sequence for a 3-way or 4-way switch because the conductor logic is different.
- Follow the terminal labels on the device body if the manufacturer uses line or common markings.
- If multiple cables, re-marked wires, or smart-device leads are present, the wiring is not a basic single pole setup.

Final checks before use

- The switch operates the intended light or load from one location.
- The wall plate fits cleanly and the device is firmly mounted.
- No terminal screw is left loose and no copper is exposed beyond what the product allows.
- Any neutral splice in the box remains secure and undisturbed.