Three-way Switch Replacement

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INTRODUCTION

A three-way switch is a common type of light switch that is used in many homes to control a single light fixture from two or more locations. Over time, these switches may become worn or damaged, requiring replacement.

Replacing a three-way switch may seem like a daunting task, but with the right tools and instructions, it can be a simple DIY project. In this guide, we will provide step-by-step instructions on how to replace a three-way switch safely and effectively.

Whether you are a seasoned DIYer or new to home repairs, this guide will give you the confidence and knowledge you need to replace a three-way switch and restore proper functionality to your lighting system.

🔧 TOOLS:

Cutting Plier (1)
Wire Stripper (1)
6-in-1 Screwdriver (1)
Phillips #1 Screwdriver (1)
Single-Pole Phase Tester (1)
Two-Pole Voltage Tester/Duspol (1)

⚙ PARTS:

Light Switch (1)

Step 1 — Three-way Switch

- Locate and turn off the **circuit breaker** for your switch.

ⓘ Try to turn the switch to ensure you turned the power off.

Step 2

- Use the screwdriver to remove the **15mm Flathead screws** on the wall plate.

- Remove the wall plate from the wall.
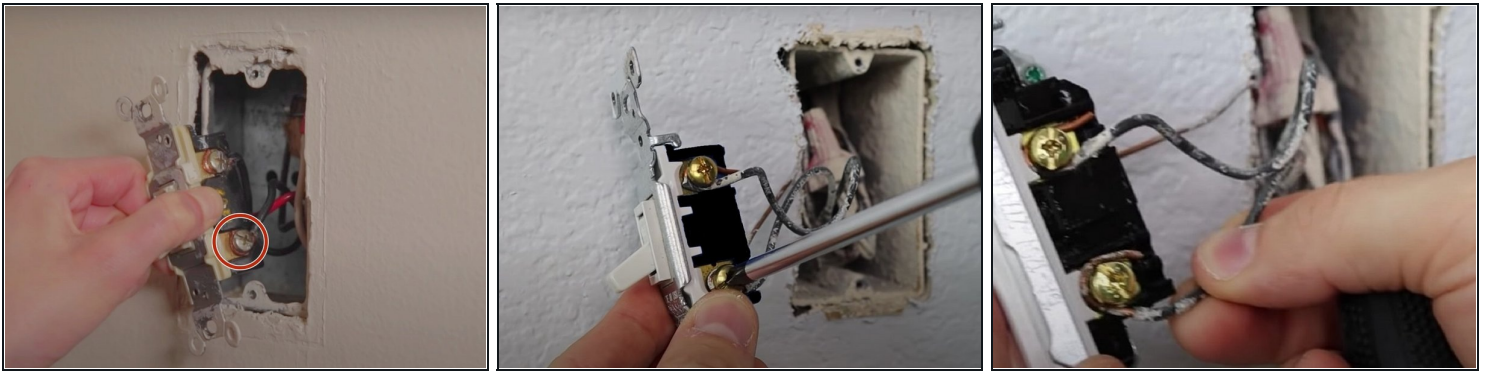
Step 3 — Determine voltage absence

- While wearing insulated gloves, gently pull out the switch and use a Duspol or any other Voltmeter to test if there is voltage at the contacts.

- ⓘ You can also use a single pole phase tester, but that's not the proper way to do it.

- ⚠ Do not work on live circuits if you are not an experienced professional.
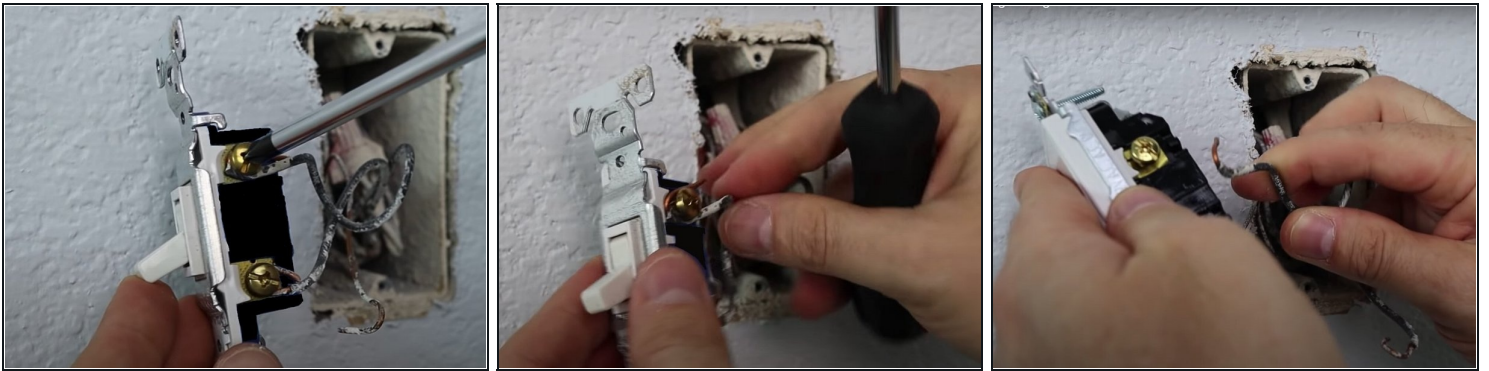
Step 4

- Label the **black live or load wire** which connects to the power or the device and usually on the down position of the switch.

- Use the screwdriver to loosen the **5mm Phillips #1 screw** so that you can remove the live or load wire from the switch.
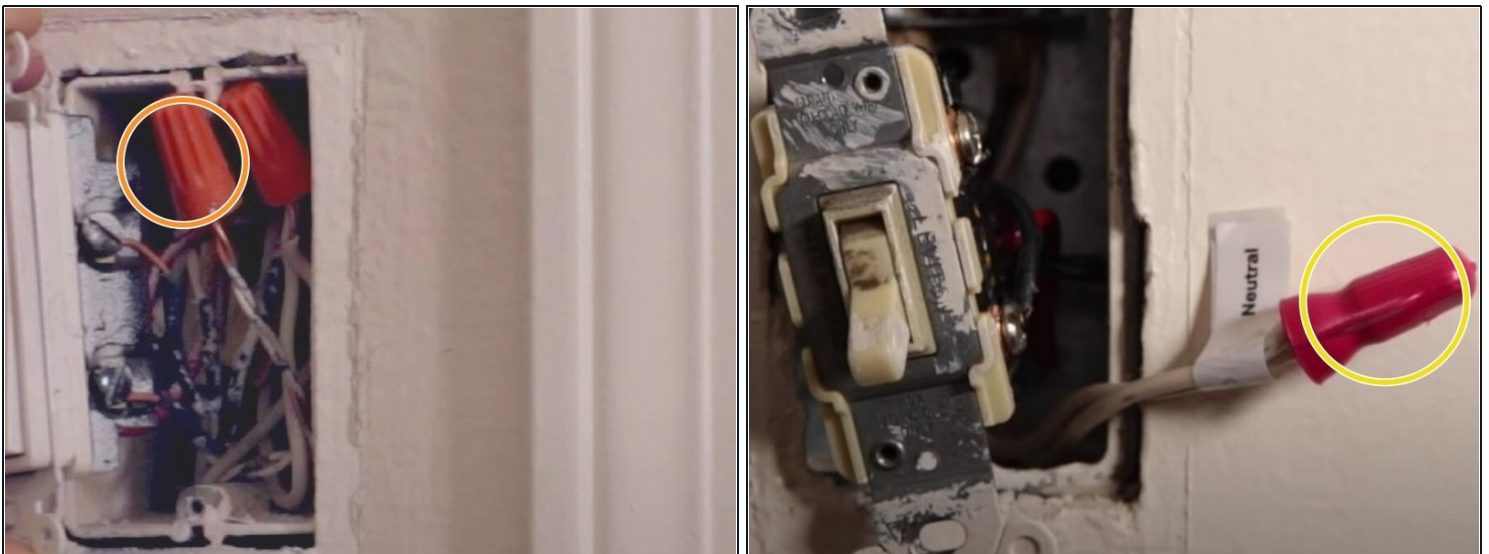
Step 5

- Label the two **traveler wires** where the up position is held by gold screws of the old switch.

Step 6

- Use the screwdriver to loosen the **5mm Phillips #1 screws** so that you can remove these two traveler wires.

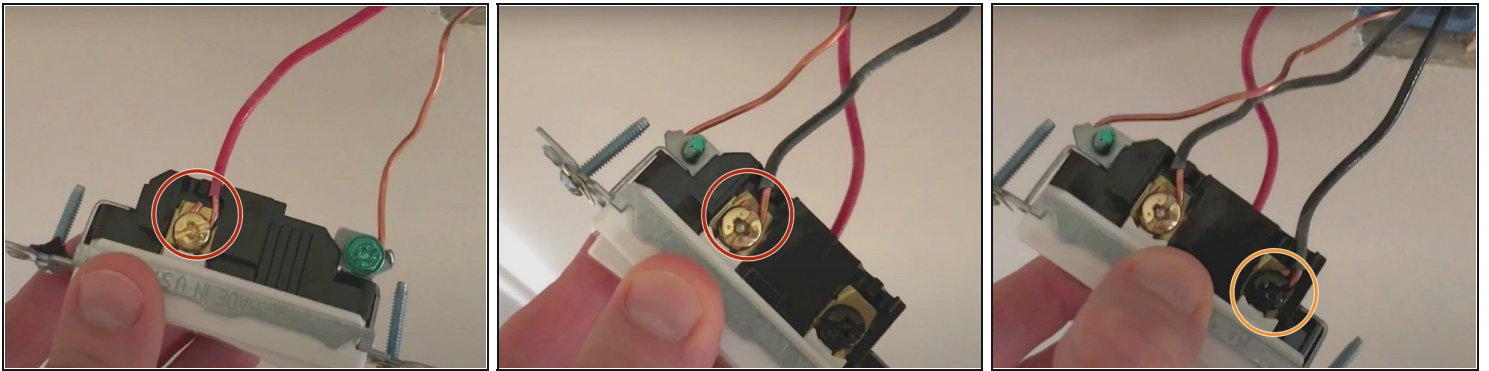- After the wires are removed, disconnect the old switch.

Step 7

ⓘ You will find there are one or two wires left in the outlet box.

- **Ground wire** is the bare copper wire.

- The white one is the **neutral wire** that may be in another outlet box.

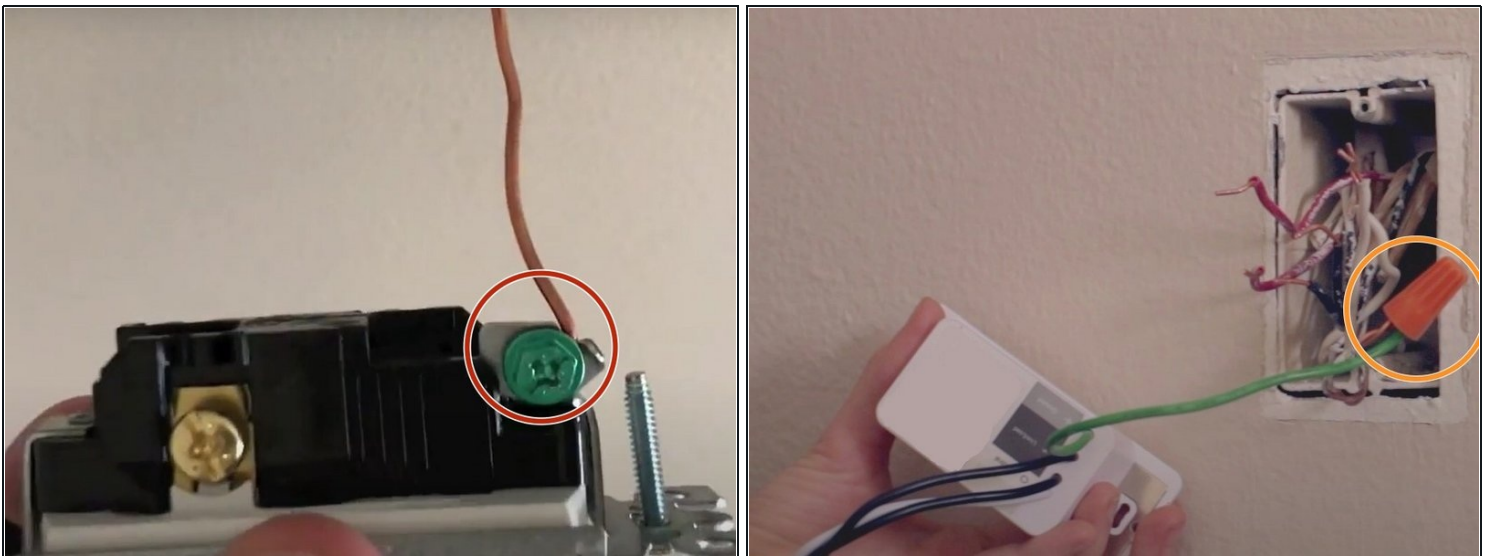- Please label the **neutral wire** and the **ground wire**.

Step 8

- Using your new switch, link two **traveler wires** to the positions with **gold screws** of the new switch and tighten the **5mm Phillips #1 screws**.

- Link the **live or load** wire to the position with a **black screw** and tighten the **5mm Phillips #1 screw**.
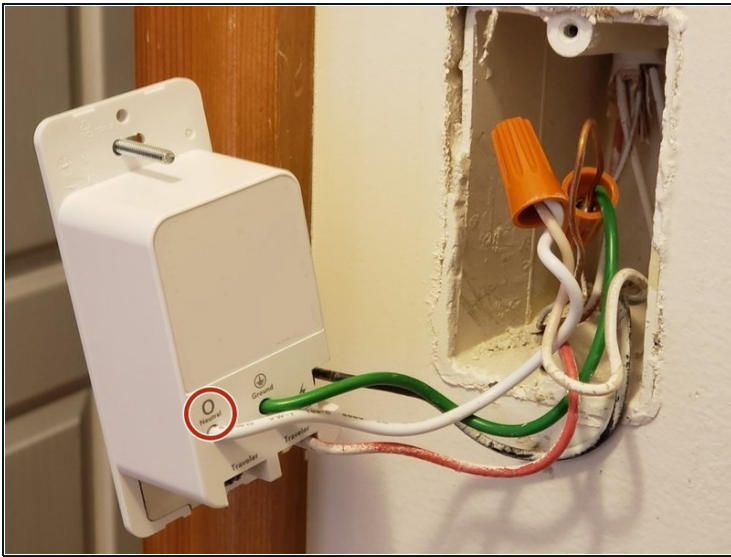
⚠ Please ensure you link the wires to the correct places.

Step 9

- If there is a **green 5mm Phillips #1 screw** on the new switch, please link the **ground wire** to and tighten it.

- For the **intelligent switch**, there would be a **green wire** so that you can group the **ground wire** with the green wire and tighten them with a **wire nut**.

Step 10

- There is an extra **white wire** on the intelligent switch.

- Group the **neutral wire** with the **white wire** and use the **wire nut** to tighten them.

Step 11

- Turn the power on and check whether the new switch works.

- Gently push the wires back into the outlet box.
  - ⓘ You'll also need to leave some space for the switch.

- Secure the new switch with the **10mm Phillips #1 screws**.

- Finally, secure the wall plate.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.