

How to Change a Light Bulb

So your light bulb is out, it's dark, and you're scared. Well have no fear for this is a brief tutorial, utilizing concise steps in directing anyone to replace a broken light bulb. In just a few quick steps, you'll again be able to see!

Disclaimer: The first step in changing any light bulb is to get the correct replacement bulb. Buying the correct bulb can be convoluted as there are many variables to worry about such as size, shape, screw cap shape and threading, voltage, and wattage. Thus, those steps will not be covered here. Still, exact specifications can typically be found as print on your broken light bulb, and you can work from there. These following steps will assume the user has already obtained the correct replacement bulb.

Accessing the Bulb

1. If the light bulb is on the ceiling, obtain a ladder to reach the bulb.
 - a. Do not use a table as most tables are not made to withstand the weight of a person standing on it.
 - b. Do not use a rolling chair, or anything else that rolls on wheels as they are not stable when standing on.
2. If the light bulb is encased in a plastic cover of some sort, remove this cover accordingly.
 - a. This may require a screwdriver, some prying, and/or twisting counter-clockwise.

Removing the Bulb

1. Turn off power to the light bulb by flipping off the switch to the light in the room, but ensure there is still adequate lighting on where you're working.
 - a. Turning off power to the light bulb will ensure your safety from electric shock.
2. Gently tap on the light bulb to gauge whether or not the light bulb is cool enough to safely hold.

- a. For precaution, you may wear a pair of work gloves for this procedure.
3. Apply a firm grip on the light bulb with your dominant hand.
 - a. This grip should be firm enough to confidently hold the bulb, but gentle enough to not shatter the bulb in your hand.
4. While gripping the light bulb, gently turn the bulb counter-clockwise until the bulb is completely out of its socket.
 - a. Do this slowly as you can shatter the bulb with a relatively small force.

Disposing the Used Bulb

1. While still gently, but firmly holding the bulb in your hand, safely get down from the ladder if you are on one.
2. Check your local recycling guidelines for properly disposing your used light bulb.
 - a. In most cases, newer models such as halogen, CFL, and LED bulbs can be recycled.
 - b. Incandescent, on the other hand, an older model, cannot be recycled for the most part.
3. Put the light bulb in a durable plastic bag so that if it breaks, the glass is contained.
4. Throw the plastic bag in its respective garbage can.

Installing the Bulb

1. Again, gently, but firmly hold the replacement bulb in your dominant hand.
2. Safely regain access to the empty socket where there once used to be the broken light bulb.
 - a. This may be through scaling a ladder, so be sure to hold on for safety with your other hand.
3. Gently insert the screw cap of the light bulb into the empty socket.
 - a. The screw cap is the end of the bulb with the screw threads.
4. With a firm grip on the light bulb, as well as with the screw cap touching the top of the socket, gently turn the bulb clockwise until you feel a strong resistance. This means that the screw cap is completely in the socket.

- b. Again, do this slowly as you can shatter the bulb with a relatively small force.
5. If the light bulb was encased in a plastic cover of some sort, attach this cover accordingly.

Testing the Bulb

1. Flip on the switch to the light in the room. The light bulb should turn on.
2. If the light bulb does not turn on, tighten the bulb in the socket and try again.
3. If the light bulb still doesn't turn on, repeat the entire process, this time with another light bulb.
4. If other light bulbs still don't turn on, then it could be an issue with the electricity going to that particular socket.
 - a. In this case, it would require help from another tutorial, or an electrical engineer.