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How To Replace Porcelain Ceiling Fixtures

It doesn't take much to smash an old porcelain ceiling fixture, and we have found this to be the most common disaster for this piece of equipment. But whatever the cause of the malfunction of your fixture, it will have to be replaced. The job is a bit complicated, but nothing to worry about. You can pull it off. Be careful on the ladder.

Utensils

Medium flat blade screwdriver
Diagonal cutters
Pliers
Soldering iron
Hammer
Wire stripper

Ingredients

Two lengths of #14 stranded insulated wire, one black and one white, 5" inches long
Two #8 wire nuts
Lightweight porcelain fixture
Two 8/32" inch machine screws, 1", 1" 1/2, or 2" inches as necessary
Bar strap may or may not be required
Coil of solder
Soldering flux (non-acid)

Approximate Time: 30 Minutes

1. Turn off power by disengaging appropriate fuse or circuit breaker.
2. Turning counterclockwise, remove 2 screws from both sides of old fixture (Fig. 64A). Pull fixture away gently to avoid breaking plaster.
3. You will notice 2 wires connected to fixture from ceiling box (Fig. 64B). Unscrew old wire nuts, if any. If wires are soldered or taped, cut away uninsulated portions. See Figure 64B.
4. Strip back 1/2" inch of insulation with wire stripper and bare wires in ceiling box.
5. Strip back 1/2" inch of insulation at both ends of the new lengths of #14 wire.
6. Twist strands of #14 wire together in clockwise direction.
7. Solder ends of strands together.
8. Form a hook at one end of each wire.
9. Now disassemble new ceiling fixture. See Figure 64C.
10. Place hook of black wire under brass screw in fixture and tighten securely in clockwise direction.
11. Place hook of white wire under silver screw and tighten as above.

12. Reassemble fixture.
13. Twist ends of wires from new fixture to ends of wires from ceiling box: black to black, white to white. See Figure 64D.
14. Screw wire nuts onto these connections and push wires back into ceiling box.
15. Secure new fixture to ceiling box with screws. See Figure 64A.
16. Screw in bulb.
17. Turn on current at fuse box.
18. Energize.

Note: If fixture you have purchased is not the same type as described in this recipe, see the two recipes that follow.

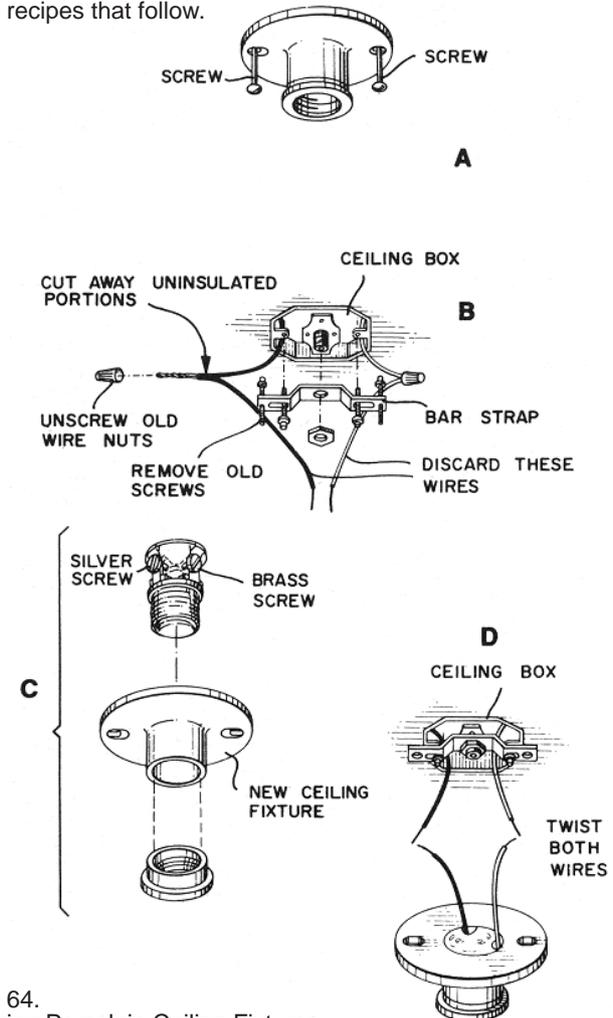


Figure 64.
Replacing Porcelain Ceiling Fixtures