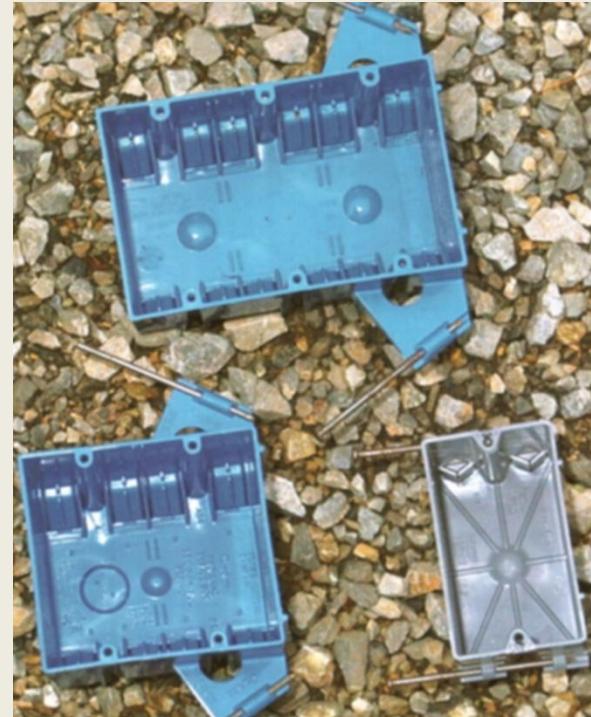


Home Electrical Wiring

Switches – Types and how to wire a
single switch and 3 way switches

Types of Switch Boxes

- Most general use is the nonmetallic type because they are cheaper, easy to install, but they damage easily.
- Metal boxes are required for mounting on the exterior surface of a wall.



Types of switches

- Different quality. You get what you pay for.
- **Single pole switch** – has 2 terminals (screws). The switch simply turns a load on and off. The screws will be brass meaning the hot wire is switched (interrupted).
- **Three way switch** – has 3 terminals (screws). There are 2 terminals for the hot wires (brass) and 1 terminal for the common (dark colour screw).

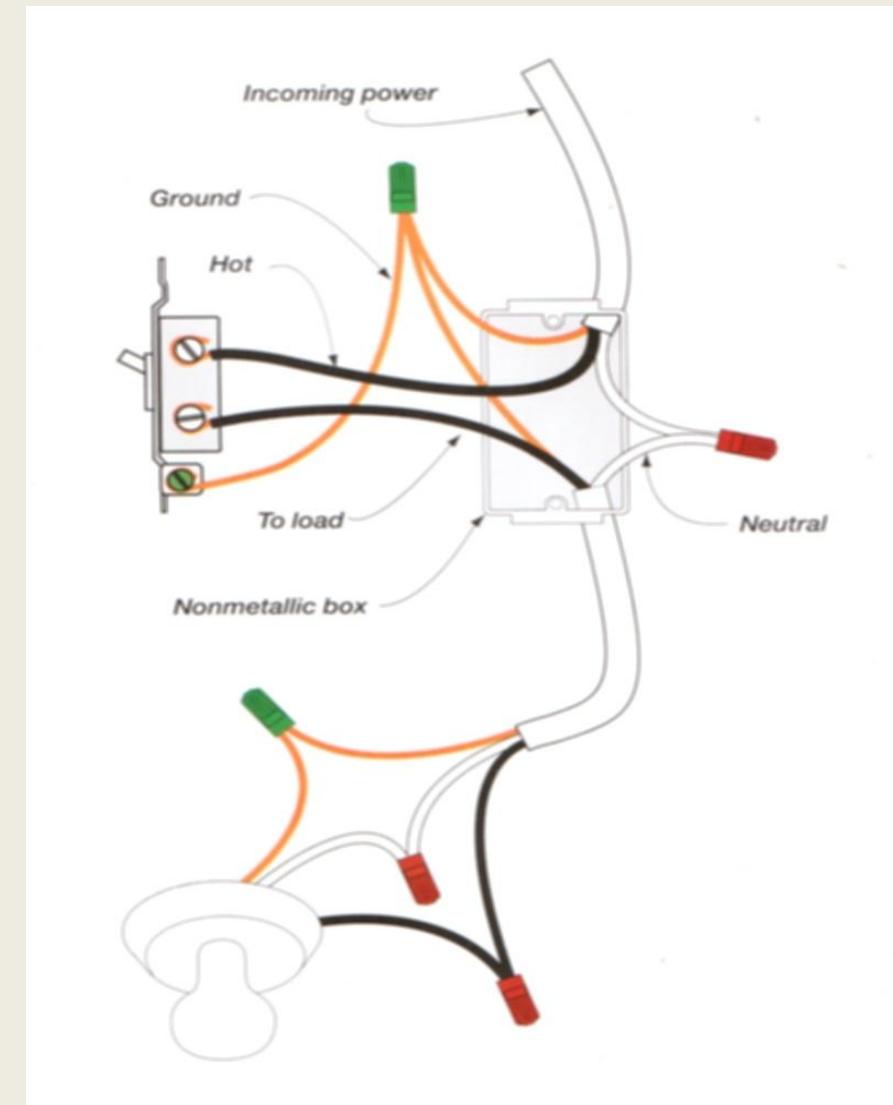


Wiring a Single Switch

When power is at the switch box

- Wiring a single switch is very simple. The switch just needs to be inserted into the “hot” wire between the incoming power and the load.

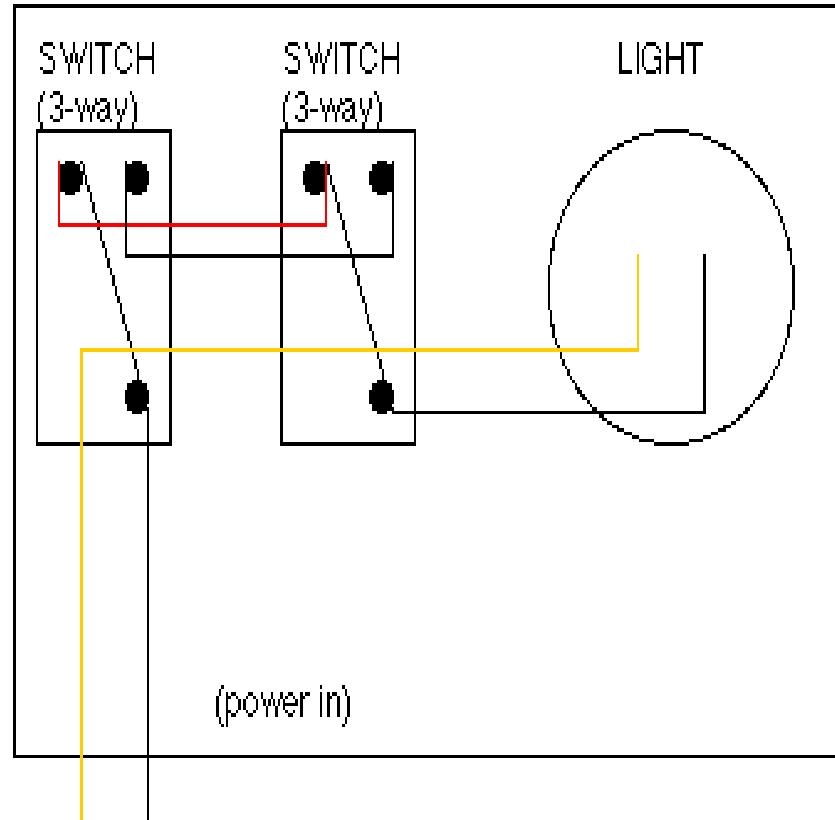
- A good practice is to install the incoming hot wire on the top terminal and the bottom terminal goes to the load.



3-way Switches – power at switch

- A 3-way switch is used when you have a long hallway, set of stairs or more than one entrance into a room and you want to control the light from either end.
- There are 4 rules to getting a 3 way switch right.

- #1 Connect the incoming power hot wire to the common on one of the switches
- #2 Connect the incoming power neutral wire to the load.
- #3 Connect the load hot wire to the common on the other switch.
- #4 Connect the traveler wires (no polarity) to the two leftover terminals on each switch.



4 Rules

- #1 Connect the incoming power hot wire to the common on one of the switches.
- #2 Connect the incoming power neutral wire to the load.
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