

Switches

Single & Double Pole Switches

There's more than one kind of switch we can install in our homes. The most commonly used is known as a *single-pole switch*. It controls current on one circuit from one point. For this kind of switch, there are two terminal screws needed. Likewise, a *double-pole switch* uses four terminal screws, and can control two circuits from one point.



3 & 4 Way Switches

The *three-way switch* can control one specific circuit in two locations. For example, you can have the stairwell lighting at the top and at the bottom of the steps. Then, there's the *four-way switch*. These control one circuit from three or more locations.

Dimmer Switches are a different way of lighting your home. These special switches can control the amount of current in a lighting circuit, which alternatively allows you to control the amount of lighting in your room using the toggle or dial on the switch. Dimmers can come in single-pole (see above) or three-way construction. However, if there is more than one three-way switch involved, only one can be a dimmer switch in order for everything to work properly. Some toggle dimmers, however, work with two three-way switches being used. The dimmer switch is available with push on-off dial, rotary, toggle, or touch. See "Installing a Dimmer Switch" if you wish to install one of these in your home.

