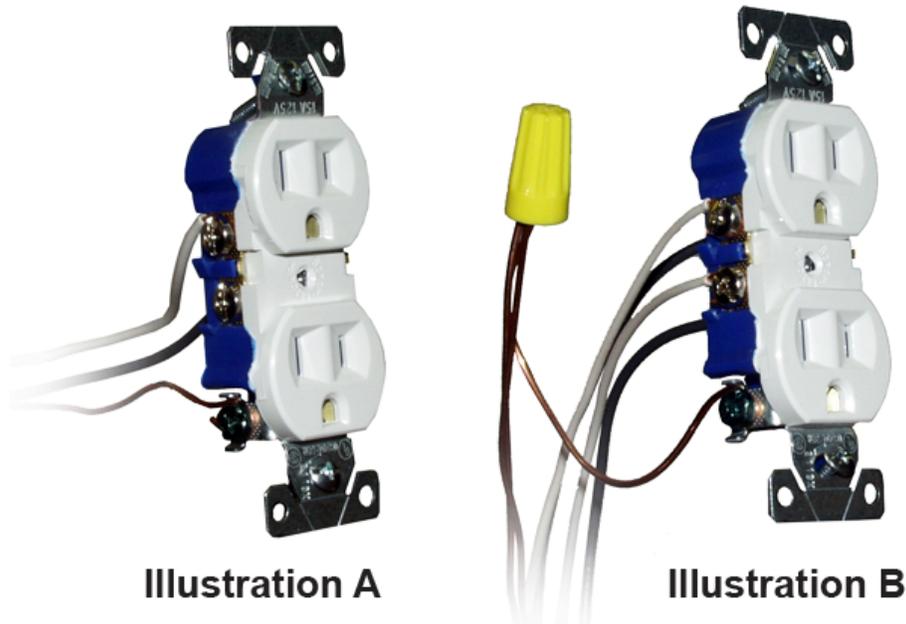


## **Changing an Outlet**

Level of Difficulty – 3

If you're ready to get rid of that old painted outlet, or need to replace a damaged one, changing an outlet is an easy project.

*Note that the wiring in Illustration A is used to power the outlet, which is at the end of the line. Illustration B shows wiring that both powers the outlet and a second set of wiring that provides power to another outlet, switch or fixture. However your current outlet is wired, make note of which wires go to which terminal and match the locations on the new outlet installation.*



**Illustration A**

**Illustration B**

The following instructions apply to most typical duplex outlet applications.

*If you are replacing an outlet where one receptacle is controlled by a light switch and the other is always powered, this requires a different installation.*

1. Turn off the power to the outlet. Use a circuit tester to verify that the wiring is not supplying power to the outlet.
2. Remove the cover plate and remove the outlet mounting screws.
3. Pull out the outlet and inspect the wiring. For the best connection, cut the wiring as close to the old outlet as possible and strip the ends to about 5/8". If the wiring is short and cutting off a portion makes the installation difficult, you can loosen the terminal screws and remove the wire.
4. Inspect the wiring in the electrical box. If there are any breaks in the insulation, repair them with electrical tape.
5. Depending on the type of outlet you are installing, attach the wire to the new outlet by mounting to terminal screws (recommended) or by back stabbing. Attach the ground wire, if present to the grounding screw on the new outlet. Verify that each of your connections is firmly in place.
6. Carefully fold the wire back into the electrical box, pushing it to the back. Mount the new outlet in the box, taking care not to pinch or scrape the wiring insulation.
7. Inspect your work. Verify that the terminal screws are not making contact with the side of the box, or any exposed metal.
8. Install the cover plate and turn on the power.