

It's on breeze

Ceiling fan generate style, comfort

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Ceiling fans do more than stir up the air. They are functional and fashionable furnishings to any home.

"People put them in bathrooms, bedrooms, family rooms, everywhere," said salesperson Les Melton of EXPO Design Center in Troy. A ceiling fan circulates the air, making a windchill effect in the summer and moving

warm air around in the winter, depending on the direction the blades turn. The result is energy savings of 40 percent in the summer and 20 percent in the winter.

"I use mine 365 days a year," said Bob McClain, department head at The Home Depot in Livonia.

What should you look for in a ceiling fan? "If you want style, you want one that's quiet," said Mike Koticki of the electrical department of Lowe's in Westland. "After that it becomes a personal preference." Warranties range from 15 years, to 30 years to lifetime, he said.

The most frequently asked question from ceiling fan customers is what size to get, Koticki said.

If the room measures 8 by 10 feet, the fan diameter should be 30 inches; if the room is 10 by 12 feet, the fan diameter should be 42 inches; if the room is more than 12 by 12 feet, up to 20 by 20 feet, the fan diameter should be 62 inches.

"It should always be hung on a fan box," McClain said. "The old ceiling light boxes will have a tendency to break. It's very important to inspect your boxes before hanging (the fan)."

The fan can be hung on a downrod, or close to or flush against the ceiling. Vaulted or angled ceilings could require longer downrods. All fans have a pull chain to provide three speeds and "off," and a slide switch to reverse the direction of the air flow, Koticki said.

"You want to have fan control," McClain said. "A dimmer switch would burn out the motor."

Last year, Angelo Brothers Company (phone (800) 959-2226; Web site www.angelobrothers.com) introduced the InstaLoc™ ceiling fan, which features

provided components.

To hang this fan, a mounting bar is installed to the UL-listed ceiling fan outlet box. The fan is then lifted into the mounting bar and twisted until secure.

If you need a light in the room, you can install a fan with a coordinated light fixture or put in a light fixture of your choice. EXPO carries fans with lights that can also be installed separately, Melton said.

Each element of a ceiling fan has its own style, reflecting contemporary, classic or novelty.

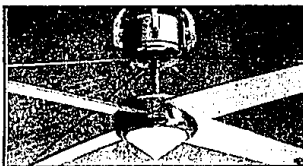
Hunter's 1912 Mission Style™ features an iridescent art glass light fixture. The company's The Baseball Fan® has housing shaped like a catcher's mitt.

The Magellan™ by MinkaAire has a nautical theme, with blades resembling sails. Caseblanca makes the sleek Verrazano™ and the elegant New Orleans Centennial®, the blades of which are attached to an ornate housing.

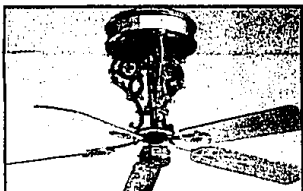
Motor housings can be antique, bright or brushed brass; iron; brushed nickel or chrome, among other materials. Blade materials include rosewood, oak, pine, maple, walnut, cherry. Some blades are reversible, making it easy to change the look.

A popular style at The Home Depot features a stainless steel motor, clear fan blades and a neon bulb, McClain said.

"It's good for a game room," he said.



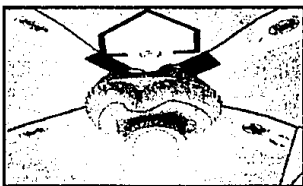
Verrazano™



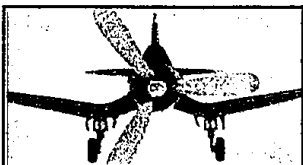
New Orleans Centennial®



Magellan™



The Baseball Fan®



Fantasy Flyer®

How to install and enjoy your ceiling fan

BY JIM NEIDNER
FOR NEWS USA

(NUE) — It's not that hard or expensive to install a ceiling fan. It just takes time and patience.

To install, the first step is to turn off power to the existing light fixture at the main service panel, test for power, and then remove the fixture and electrical box. Use a metal brace attached to framing members for ceiling fans. Attach a 1 1/2-inch-deep metal light fixture box to the brace bar using a U-bolt and two nuts.

Next, attach the stove bolts to the adapter plate with locknuts. Insert the adapter plate into the box so the ends of the U-bolt fit through the holes on the adapter plate. Secure the adapter by screwing two locknuts onto the U-bolt. Open one knockout for each cable that will enter the electrical box and attach a cable clamp to each knockout.

Now go to the attic and position the brace bar between the joists—the parallel beams that support the ceiling. The bottom legs of the brace bar should be flush with the bottom of the joists. Rotate the bar by hand to force the end spikes into the joists. The face of the electrical box should be flush with the finished ceiling surface.

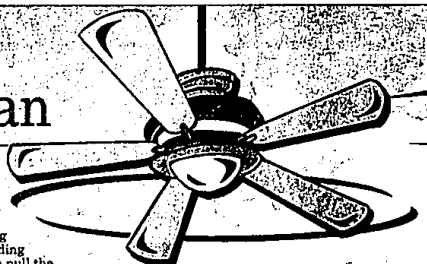
Anchor the brace to the joists using a wrench. Feed the existing circuit cable into the fixture box and secure it with a cable clamp.

Place the ceiling fan mounting plate over the stove bolts extending through the electrical box. Then pull the circuit wires through the hole in the center of the mounting plate. Attach the mounting nuts and tighten them with a nut driver.

Finally, hang the fan motor from the mounting hook. Connect the wire leads using wire connectors: black circuit wire to black wire lead; white circuit wire to white lead; and grounding wires to green lead.

While it may seem complicated, installing a ceiling fan is relatively easy. Even if you've never hung a ceiling fan before, it shouldn't take you more than a few hours to install.

Jim Neidner is a national radio home host and award-winning builder/remodeler.



Going with the wind: Ceiling fans come in a variety of styles — the more traditional or classic, contemporary or novelty.

MONTE NAGLER

Treat it right:
Take good care of your camera and you will enjoy it for many years. / C2

MARTY FIGLEY

Beautiful view:
Learn history and see the beauty of magnolias and variety in gardens in south Carolina. / C3

HOMETOWN LIFE

Historic gem:
The John Dallas Harger house on 12 Mile is a fine example of Greek Revival architecture. See Hometown Life, page C5