

ENERGY SAVING IDEAS

Save Energy And Add Style With Dimmers

by Katy King

(NAPSA)—A growing number of women are taking matters into their own hands when it comes to do-it-yourself projects around the house.

They're finding that with a little planing, home improvement projects can be easy, fun and can stretch an interior design budget.



King

My first electrical home improvement project was to replace the dining room light

switch that was "standard" with our new home.

Installing a dimmer switch adds romance to dinner settings, as well as paying for itself in energy savings by the next electric bill.

Whatever project you tackle, from replacing a light switch with a dimmer switch to installing a new door bell, electrical safety should be the top priority. Some projects—like installing 200 amp electrical service—are better left to a qualified professional electrician.

Before beginning any electrical project, locate the circuit breaker for the room, and shut off the electricity to that room. I also made sure that the screwdriver I used had a well-insulated handle, a straight shaft, and an undamaged blade.

Once you are sure the current is off—check the light switch one more time—pull out the loose wiring from the old light switch. Detach the white and black wires from the old switch and remove it.

Match the wires from the switch box to the wires on the new switch: white connects with white and black connects with black. Depending on the age of your home, there may be other color coding on your wires. If so, the white or gray wire from the switch



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box connects with the white wire on the fixture. The second wire from the box may be any color *but* green, white or gray. Connect this wire to the black wire on the new switch.

With insulation stripped from the ends of the wall box wires and from the dimmer switch leads, use wire connectors to attach the matched pairs. I recommend King's Safety-Sealed™ Dry and Damp connectors. Filled at the factory with silicone sealant, they protect each splice against internal arcing, sparking and fire.

Follow the instructions from the manufacturer of the new dimmer to secure it to the wall box. Turn the circuit breaker back on; then turn the wall switch on to enjoy your dining room in a whole new light.

Like other King products, Safety-Sealed™ connectors are found at Home Depot, Lowe's, Tru-Serv, Ace, Do-It-Best, and other fine hardware stores and home centers nationwide.

For more information write to King Safety Products, 3801 Lloyd King Dr., St. Charles, MO 63304. You can also phone 1-800-633-0232. Or visit the new Web site at www.kingsafety.com.