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## Ceiling Fans

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ceiling\\_fan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ceiling_fan)

A **ceiling fan** is a mechanical fan, usually electrically powered, suspended from the ceiling of a room, that uses hub-mounted rotating paddles to circulate air.

Ceiling fans typically rotate more slowly than other types of circulating fans, such as electric desk fans. They cool people effectively by introducing slow movement into the otherwise still, hot air of a room. Fans never actually cool air, unlike air-conditioning equipment, but use significantly less power (cooling air is thermodynamically expensive). Conversely, a ceiling fan can also be used to reduce the stratification of warm air in a room by forcing it down to affect both occupants' sensations and thermostat readings, thereby improving climate control energy efficiency.

(Wikipedia)

## Choosing the right Ceiling Fan

This probably is the hardest thing to do when you have decided to update your home with ceiling fans. Checking the local home center store can be a nightmare jungle of ceiling fans displayed one next to the other, in rows that go on and on. We suggest the first consideration to be: what is the utilitarian function that you want to cover for the room that the ceiling fan will be in? Need to have it handle air movement down in the cooler months and reversible to have an upward flow in the summer months to cool the hotter air that obviously will rise. Or, maybe just a downwards flow to circulate the air when needed, operated with a chain or other chord to turn the fan air flow on and off. Oh, what about a light, one that is on a dimmer switch? There is a lot to look at and plan for to get the result you want. Note: ceiling fans come in three or four blades as well, some with lights, other without lights.

Other ceiling fan phrases like blade pitch and blade span enter into the mix as well when considering installing a ceiling fan in a particular room or space in your home. There are plenty of choices and things to consider when planning for that right ceiling fan in a certain room.

A ceiling fan that has lights provides dual duty. What if the room ceiling is low to begin with? Would a hugger ceiling fan be the right choice there? So what we're getting at here is: First, you have to consider the room and what utility you expect from the ceiling fan that you desire? Fan and light? Variable speed fan, reversible rotation? There is a lot more to it than you thought. What if your planning a screened in porch or deck? What type of ceiling fan would work outside, in that environment? How about for an outside Gazebo?

Lucky for you, there is the right ceiling fan for all your projects, basements, attics, summer rooms, large high ceiling living rooms, family room or den. With a little thought, and a good measure of planning, you'll purchase the right ceiling fan for the room, and get the job done right, the first time.

### **The difference in the number of blades a fan has and why it matters**

The bottom line is: Efficiency versus Noise. A fan with more blades actually is quieter than a fan with less blades, and it circulates less air. A fan with more blades increases the drag on the fan's motor and slows it down.

Most of the available fans designed for home use, found in local home centers come standard with four or five blades. The spinning balance that is achieved with a 4 or 5 blade fan is a more optimal balance between the amount of noise the fan creates and the amount of air circulated.

### **Wet, Dry and Damp Rated Fans for Outdoors**

Fans that are manufactured today all come with a UL (Underwriters Laboratory) rating, that states if the ceiling fan is approved for outdoor use, like in a screened in patio room. Outdoor and patio ceiling fans come with a rating that indicates if it can safely be used outside. Their rating considers the amount of moisture a fan can be exposed to.

Wet Rated fans are exclusively for outdoor use and are used in all-weather conditions. Their motor and fan blades are impervious to any type of outdoor weather conditions and are basically weather resistant.

Dry Rated Ceiling Fans are not for any type of outside use and these ceiling fans will be destroyed quickly if they come into contact with the extremes of an outside climate.

Damp rated ceiling fans are ok for outdoor use, but not to be directly exposed to water or other weather related elements. The materials used in their construction are weather resistant to elements that will come in contact with it in an outdoor environment and cause corrosion to the unit.

## Choosing the right Fan for the Room

By Style - Probably the best think to consider initially as you want it to “work” with the existing theme or style in the room.

By Mounting Size or type - Bedrooms tend to have a lower height than other rooms so a flush mounted fan would be appropriate for a bedroom. Living rooms, especially cathedral ceilings, use a larger Fan with a down rod extension. Dining rooms and kitchens are not subject to standards so choose carefully when outfitting these rooms. The rule of thumb for choosing the right mounting type is the floor to ceiling height, and either the ceiling fan package will call out the right distance or you can always talk to the store rep to make sure your choosing the right ceiling fan for the floor to ceiling height that you are working with.

By Blade Span - When sizing a ceiling fan blade, you measure from the tip of one blade to the tip of the opposing blade. Generally, most blade fan sizes are determined by the room they will be installed in.

Typical Sizes:

- Bathrooms, Breakfast Nooks, Utility Rooms - 29” - 36”
- Bedrooms, Kitchens, Dining Rooms - 42” - 48”
- Large Bedrooms, Family Rooms, Media Rooms - 52” - 56”
- Great Rooms, Other Large Spaces - 60” or larger

## Conclusion

Make choices considering the room or area that you want to install a ceiling fan in, consider your lighting requirements against the natural light already existing in a room or area. Give regard to the information listed above will help you decide the best ceiling fan options for you and your home.