How to wire a 2-prong socket for a terminal box



Overview

In simple words, a common hot wire should be connected to the first terminal of switch and lower hot terminal of outlet.

Key Takeaways

To wire a 2-prong socket, connect the hot (black) wire to the brass screw and the neutral (white) wire to the silver screw, ensuring all connections are secure and the circuit is powered off.

Safety First

Before starting, turn off the breaker supplying the circuit to prevent electric shock. Verify the power is off using a voltage tester or a receptacle tester. Always follow local electrical codes and, if unsure, consult a licensed electrician.

Preparing the Wires

Strip the insulation: Remove about ¾ inch (2 cm) of insulation from the ends of the hot (black) and neutral (white) wires using a wire stripper, avoiding nicking the metal. Twist stranded wires: If using stranded wire, twist the strands tightly counterclockwise to form a neat bundle for secure connection. Connecting to the SocketHot wire: Attach the black (hot) wire to the brass-colored screw on the socket.

Bend the wire into a clockwise hook around the screw and tighten securely. Neutral wire: Attach the white (neutral) wire to the silver-colored screw in the same manner. Ground wire (if present): If your terminal box or socket has a ground screw (green), connect the bare copper or green wire to it.

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For metal boxes, ensure the ground wire is also connected to the box.

Terminal Box Considerations

If wiring multiple outlets in parallel, connect each hot wire to the brass terminal and each neutral wire to the silver terminal. The breakaway tab between screws can remain intact to feed both prongs from a single wire. For split outlets (optional), remove the breakaway tab to control each prong separately, such as with a switch.

Final Steps

Check connections: Ensure all wires are firmly attached and no bare copper is exposed outside the screw terminals. Mount the socket: Secure the socket into the terminal box and attach the cover plate. Restore power: Turn the breaker back on and test the outlet with a receptacle tester or a small appliance to confirm proper wiring.

Following these steps ensures a safe and reliable 2-prong socket installation in a terminal box, minimizing the risk of loose connections or electrical hazards.

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Modular connector

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