



## PROJECT KNOW-HOW

Lighting fixtures impact the ambience of a room, not only because of the quality of light they produce, but because of their appearance. This is especially true of chandeliers because they are prominent room features. Although the term “chandelier” may bring to mind ornate lights with sparkling crystals, for practical purposes it includes any ceiling-mounted fixture that hangs from a chain or wire. This includes an incredibly wide range of hanging fixtures that complement any decor, from Early-American candle types to stained-glass arts-and-crafts designs.

### SKILL LEVEL

Medium

### SKILLS

Running cable, installing a box, stripping and splicing wires.

### TIME REQUIRED

Experienced: 3 hrs.

Handy: 6 hrs.

Novice: 8 hrs.

### TOOLS

Ladder and support platform, screwdriver, wire stripper

### MATERIALS

Chandelier, wire nuts, electrician's tape

# INSTALLING A HANGING FIXTURE

## STEP 1



**ASSEMBLE THE CANOPY AND HANGING HARDWARE.** Set aside any components that can be installed after the fixture is hanging (globes, glass panels, lightbulbs, etc.). Follow the specific instructions provided with the fixture. Remember to slide any necessary parts over the wiring and hanging chain. Support the fixture close to the ceiling by screwing a platform to the top of a stepladder with a few drywall screws. This provides a good work surface and should put the chandelier close enough to the ceiling to allow you to do the wiring without having to hold the chandelier in midair. Having a second person on a second ladder may also work, but coordinating your movements can be difficult with a heavy fixture. Fixtures usually come with a new mounting strap—a strip of metal that screws into the junction box in the ceiling. You can often use the existing strap, but if not, unscrew the old strap, and screw the new strap in place.

## STEP 2



**CONNECT THE WIRING.** Always be sure to turn off power before making electrical connections. Check the supply wires for fraying or damage. If necessary, cut the wires and strip off about 3/4 inch of insulation. On older fixtures, like this one, the wires aren't color coded. Connect one fixture wire to the black supply wire and the other fixture wire to the white supply wire. Newer fixtures have a black and a white wire. Twist the bare end of the black supply wire together with the bare end of the black fixture wire, then twist on a wire nut. Repeat with the white wires. Carefully tuck the wires into the junction box. Restore the power, put a bulb in the fixture and check that connections work before finishing.

## STEP 3



**HANG THE FIXTURE.** Thread the fixture's mounting stem into the mounting strap on the ceiling box. Although the fixture is now securely hanging from the ceiling, the box and mounting hardware are still visible. Slide the canopy up against the ceiling to cover the mounting hardware; tighten the locknut against the canopy.

## 1-2-3 YOUR STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

For other projects like this, please refer to **Wiring 1-2-3** available at your local The Home Depot store.



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