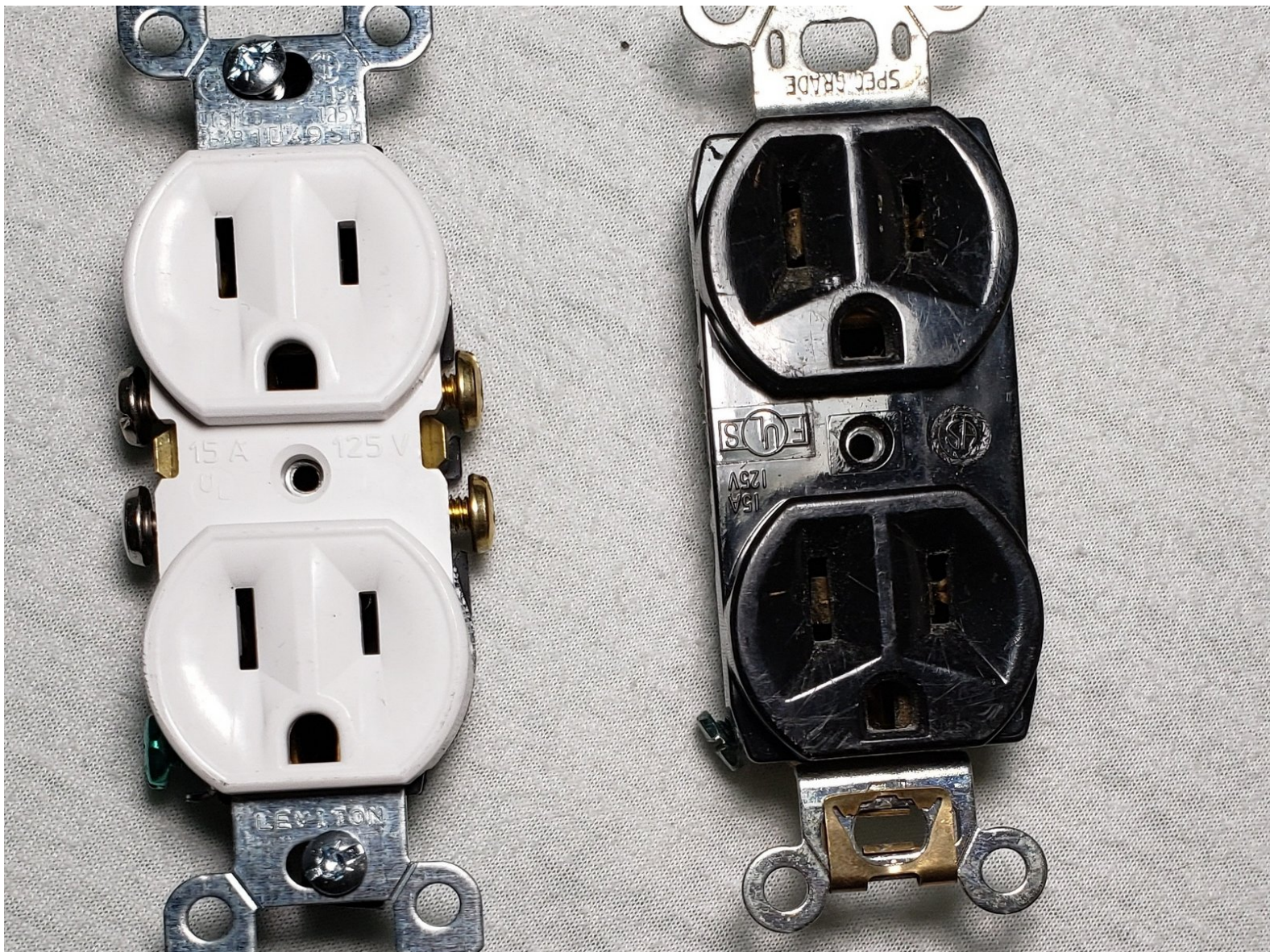




Electrical Outlet/Receptacle Replacement

Learn how to replace a standard residential electrical outlet/receptacle.

Written By: Tyler Wallace



INTRODUCTION

Common reasons to replace an outlet are for cosmetic and functional purposes. Cosmetic reasons include scratches, cracks, chips, etc. Functional reasons to replace an outlet would include: an outlet is not providing power, an outlet is not holding plugs tightly, and an outlet does not have optional features such as USB ports. This guide shows how to replace a standard residential wall outlet.



TOOLS:

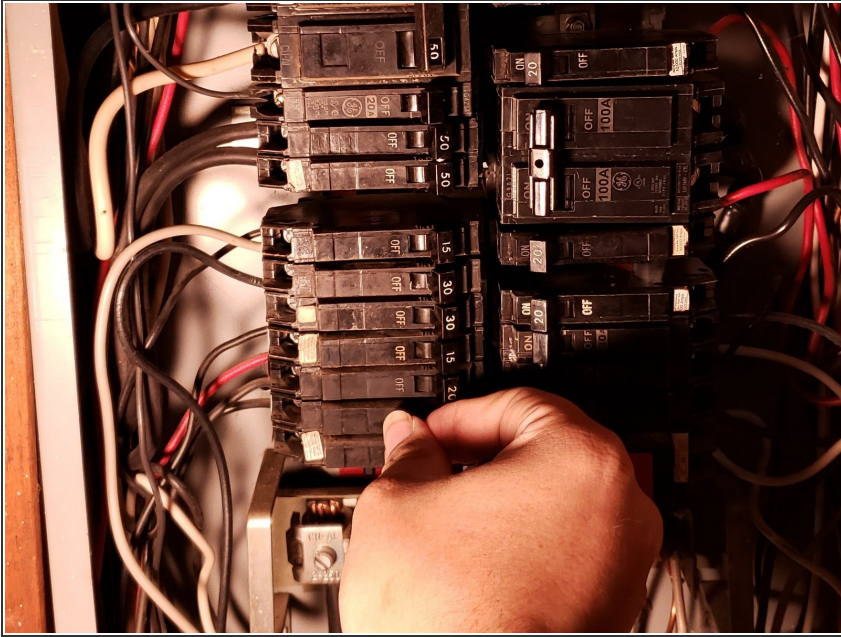
- [Phillips #0 Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Flathead Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Wire Stripper](#) (1)
- [Voltage Detector](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [15A Electrical Outlet](#) (1)

Step 1 — Outlet/Receptacle



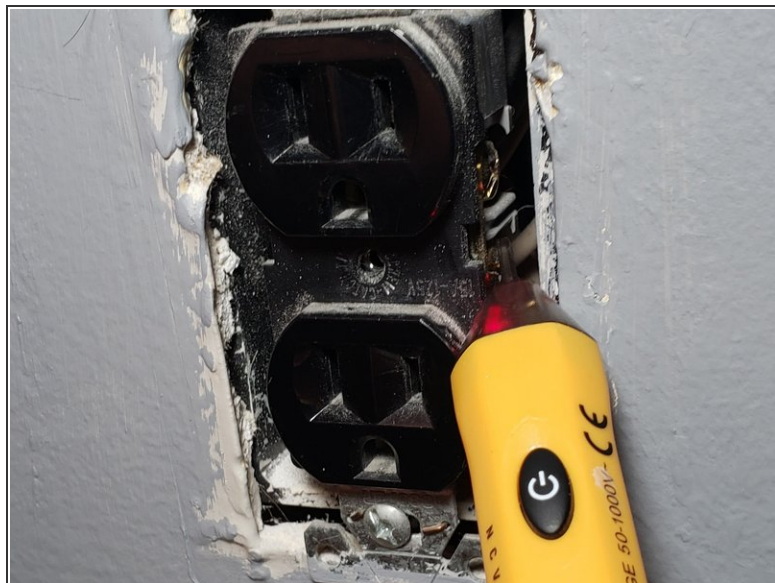
- ✦ Before beginning this guide, read your local laws to decide if you are legally allowed to replace an outlet
- Turn off the power to the outlets by switching off all breakers that are labelled "receptacle."
- Alternatively, you can switch off all breakers.

Step 2



- Using a flat-head screwdriver, remove the outer cover plate of the outlet by unscrewing the middle screw.

Step 3



- Determine there is no power at the outlet using a voltage tester. Place the tester against each screw on the side of the outlet.
- ⓘ The tester will typically emit a red light and make noise when there is power and will emit a green light when there is not power.

Step 4



- Unscrew the top and bottom screws holding the outlet into the interior electrical box.
- ⓘ The screws on outlets vary. They may have either a phillips head or a flat head, so use the screwdriver that works with your screws

Step 5



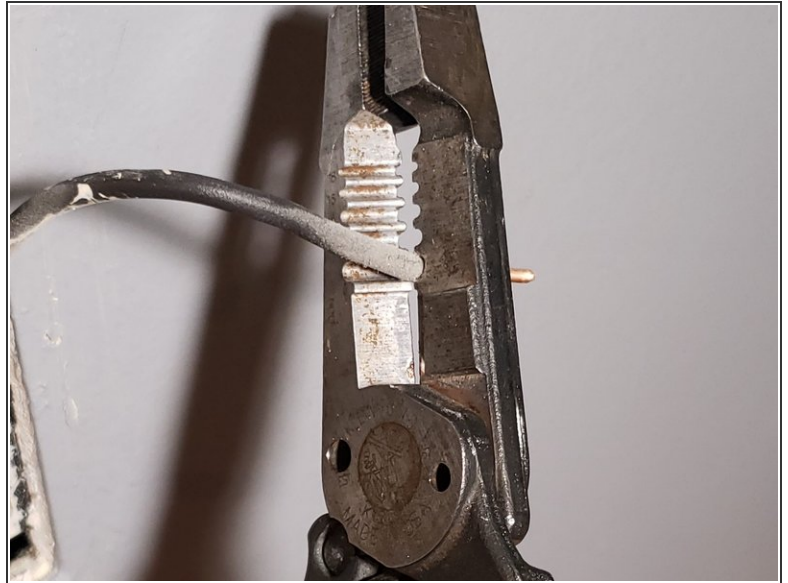
- Holding the top and bottom tabs of the outlet, pull the outlet away from the wall, exposing the wires inside the electrical box.

Step 6



- Unscrew each screw and free the wire from under it.
- ⓘ Styles that have wires inserted into the back of the outlet will require you to pull and twist the outlet to free the wires.

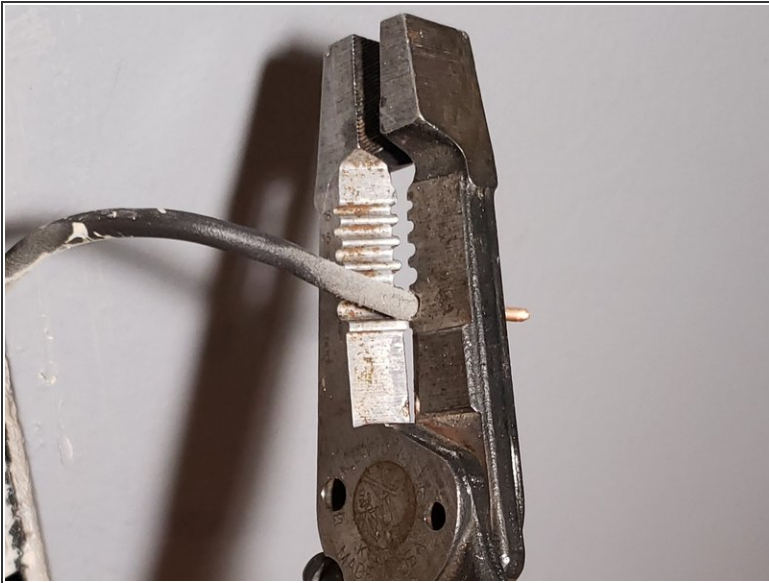
Step 7



***i* If your wires already have hooks on the ends, you may skip to step 10.**

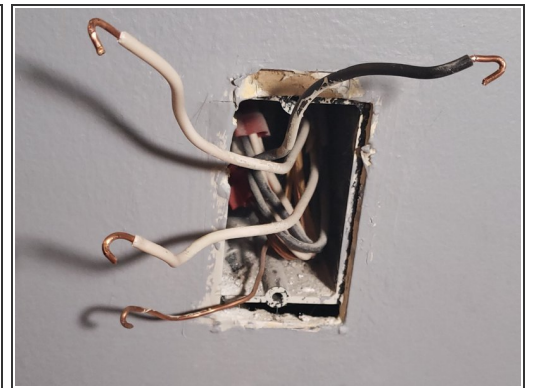
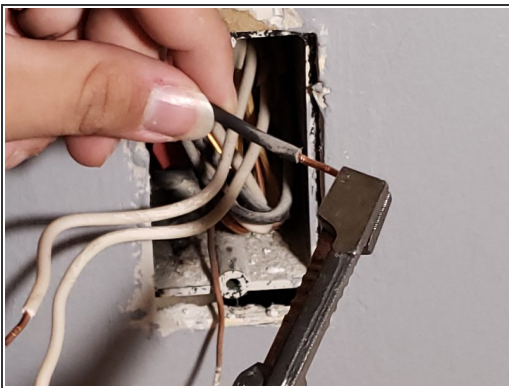
- Using a pair of wire strippers, place the wire into each groove, closing the wire strippers around the wire to find the size that barely does not fit around the wires.
- In the United States, residential wires are typically 12 gauge or 14 gauge, denoted by 12 and 14 on the wire strippers.

Step 8



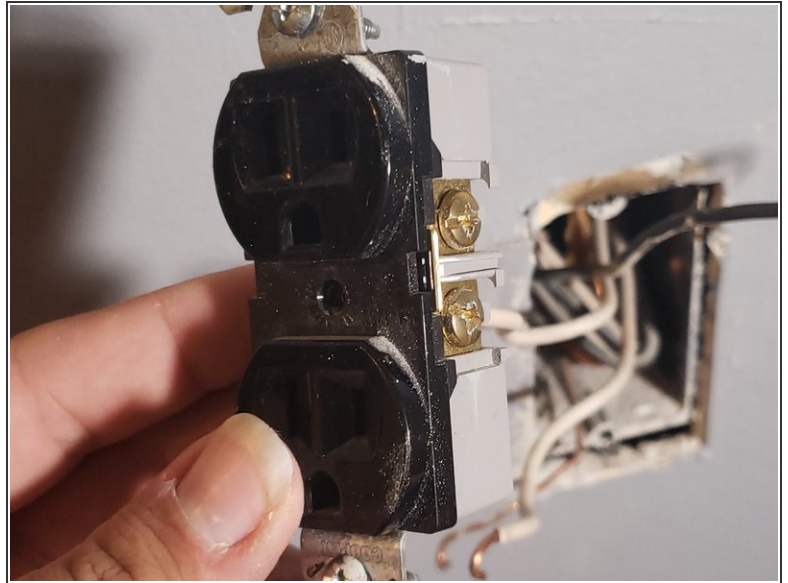
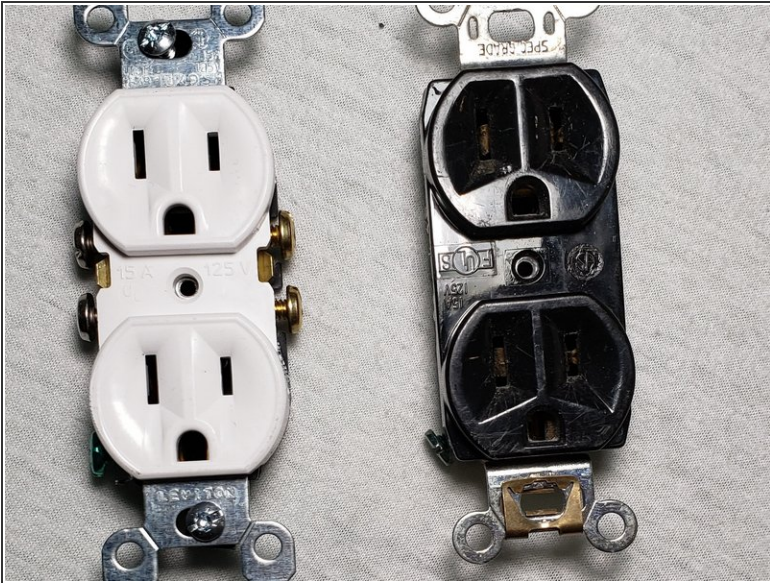
- For each wire, approximately 0.75 inches (2 centimeters) away from the clipped end of the wire, clamp the strippers down on the wire and pull the strippers toward the clipped end of the wire, revealing the bare wire underneath.

Step 9



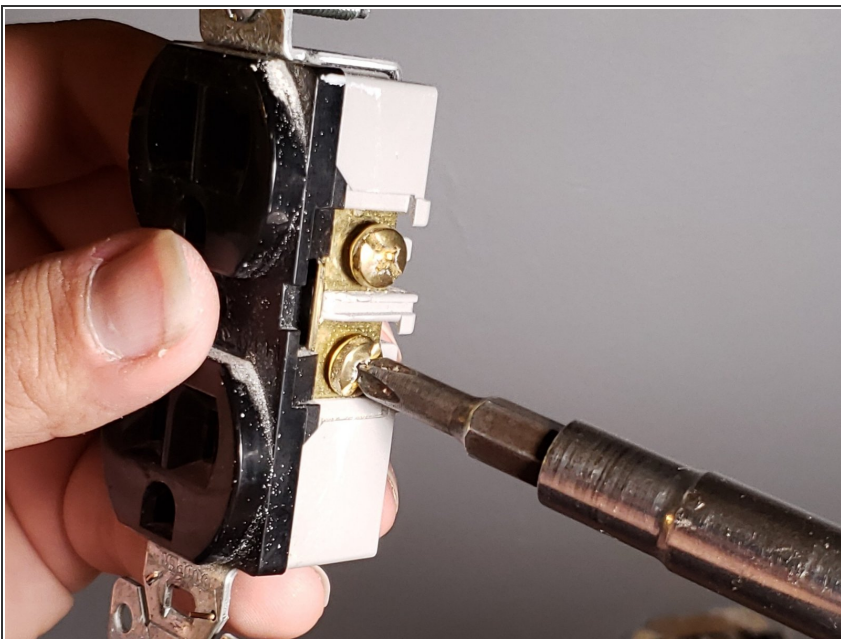
- For each wire, using a pair of wire strippers or pliers, take hold of the exposed tip of the wire, and curve the tip of the wire, making a small hook.
- Separate the wires so that the black wires are on the right and the rest are on the left, with the ground wire at the bottom.

Step 10



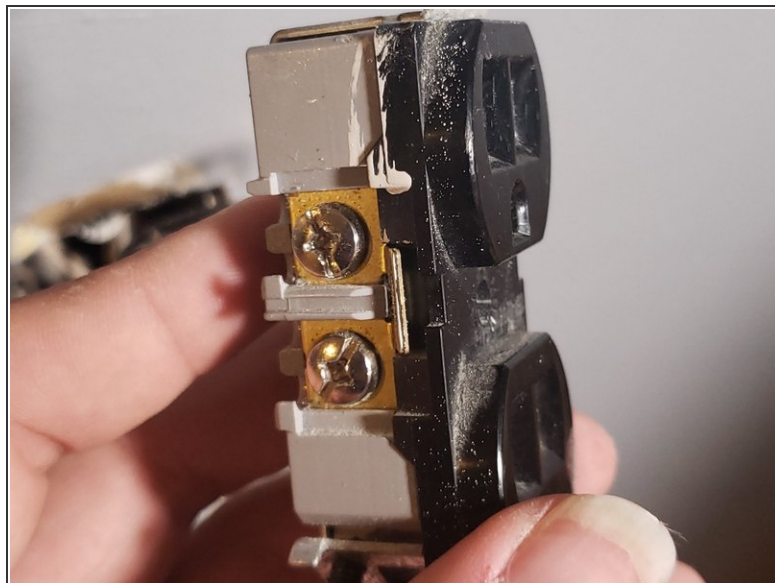
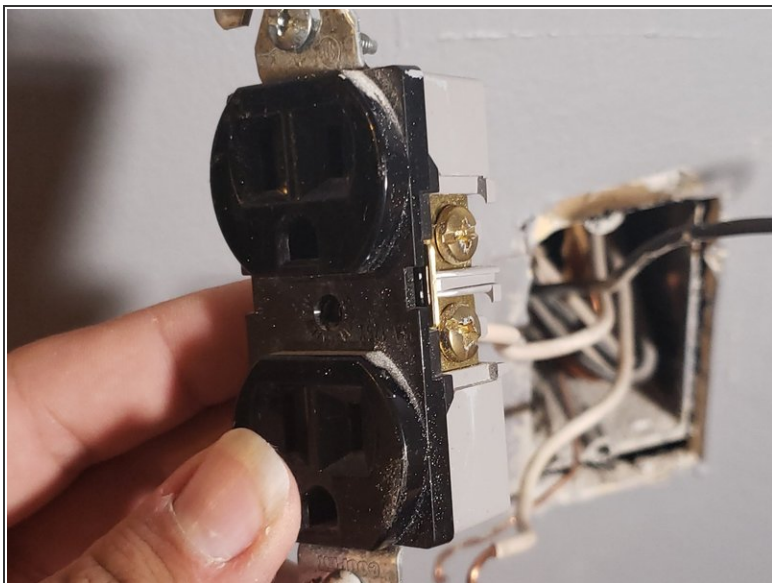
- Retrieve the new outlet.

Step 11



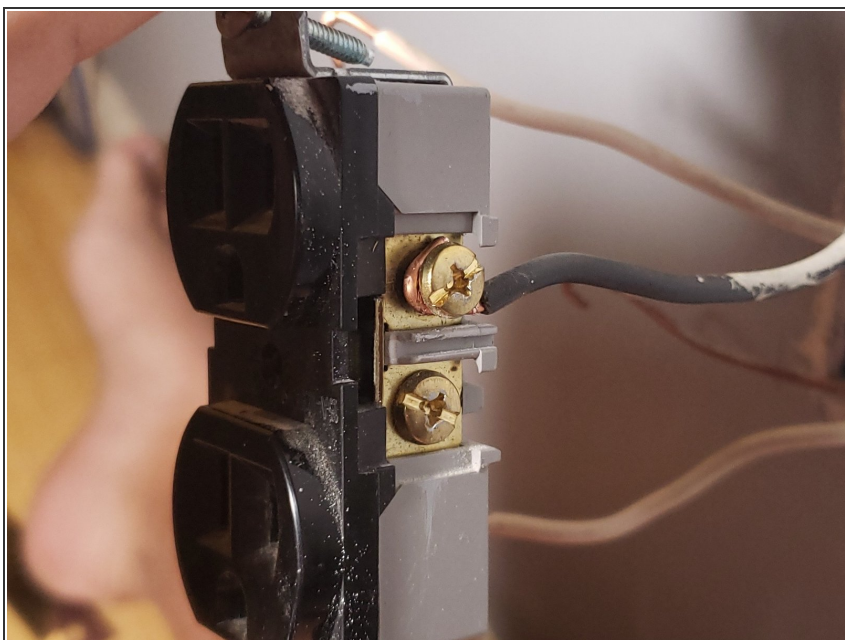
- Loosen all of the screws on the new outlet

Step 12



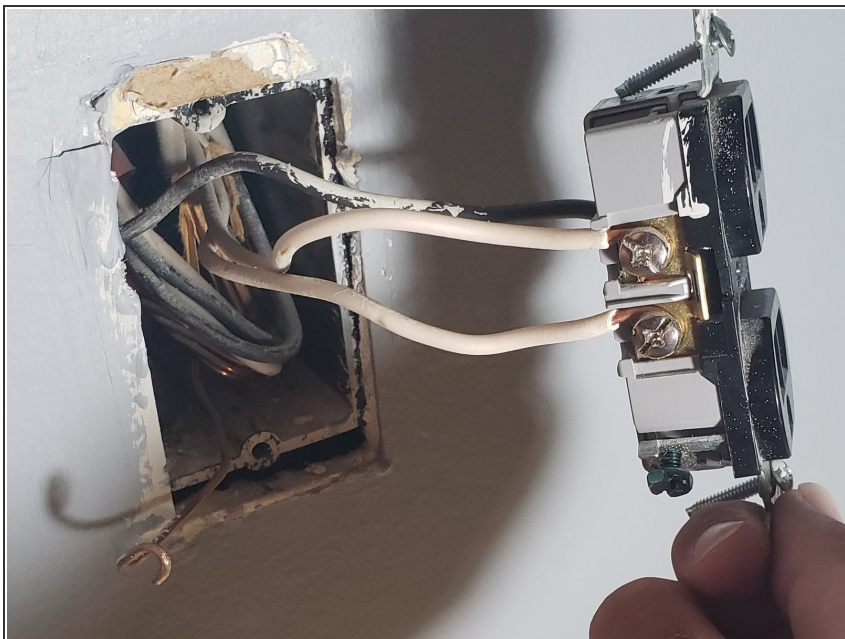
- Hold the outlet with face of the outlet pointing toward you, with the copper screws on the right, and the silver screws on the left.

Step 13



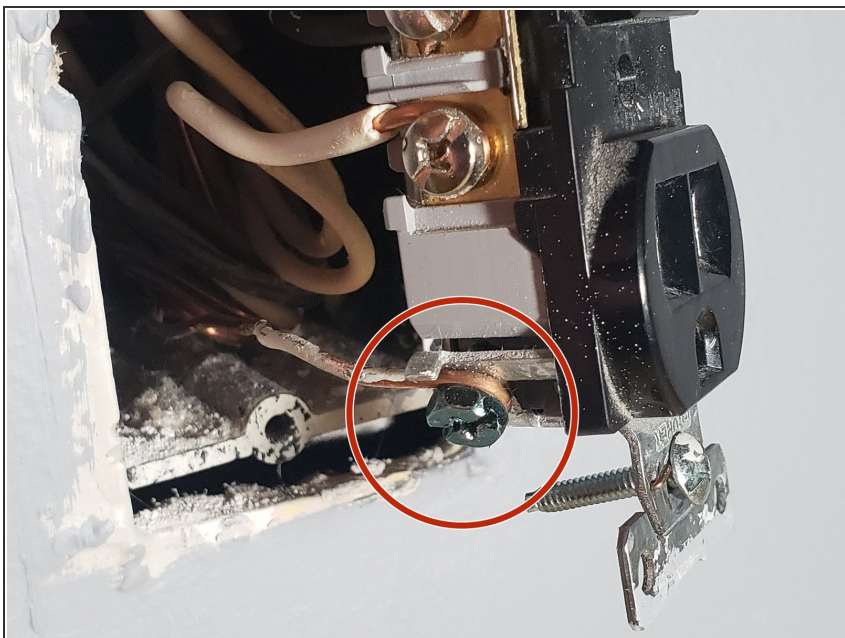
- Hook each black wire around a copper screw, with the hook clockwise, and tighten the screw down.

Step 14



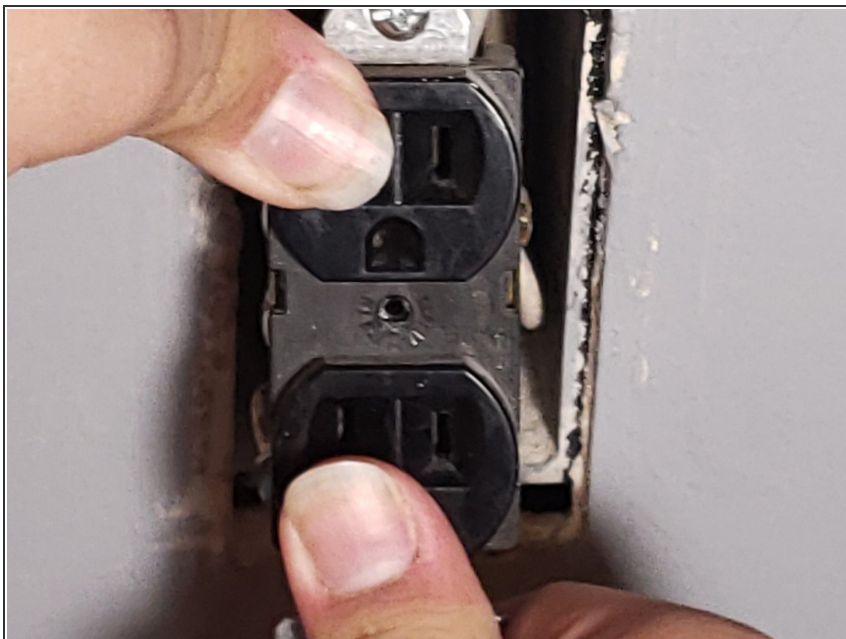
- Hook each white wire around a silver screw, with the hook clockwise. Tighten the screws down completely

Step 15



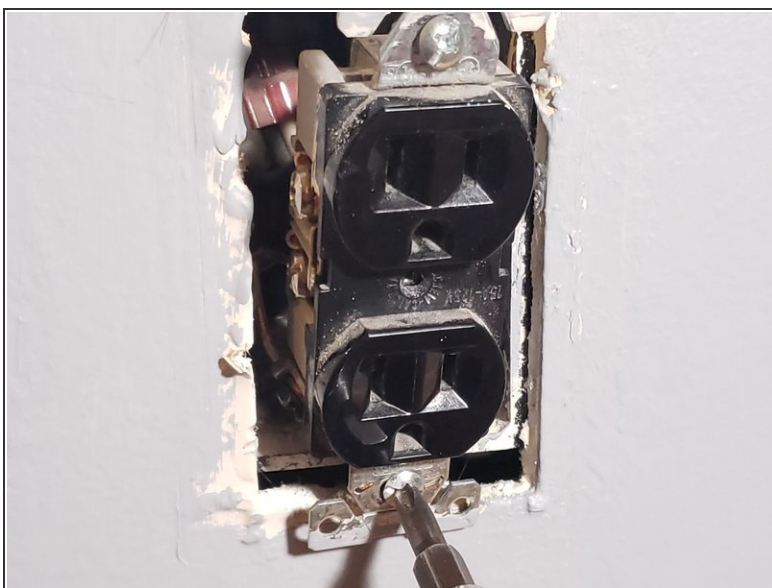
- Hook the ground wire around the screw that is separate from all other screws, and tighten the screw down.

Step 16



- Push the outlet and wires back into the electrical box.

Step 17



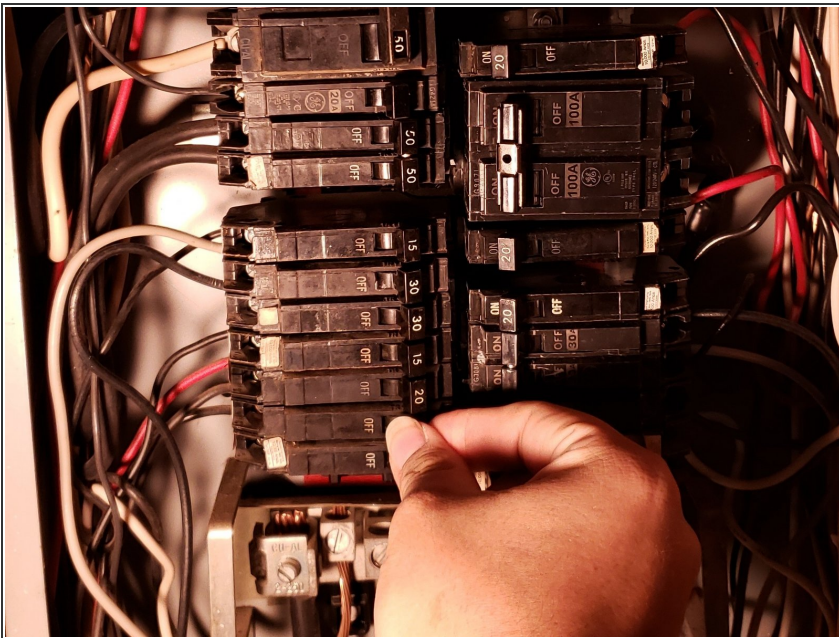
- Fully tighten the screws on the top and bottom tabs, positioning the outlet so that it is straight, vertically.

Step 18



- Retrieve the outlet cover plate, and tighten the middle screw to the middle of the outlet.

Step 19



- Switch on all the breakers that you turned off in step 1.