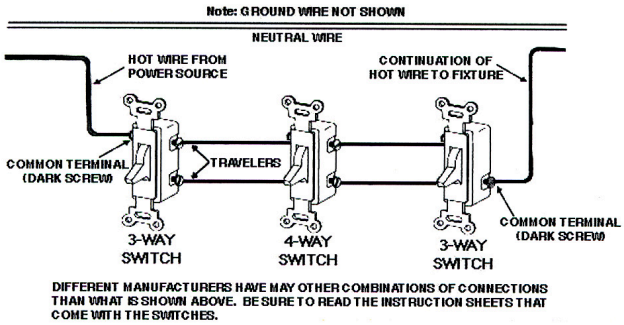
HOMEOWNER REPAIR GUIDE

FOUR-WAY SWITCH SYSTEM

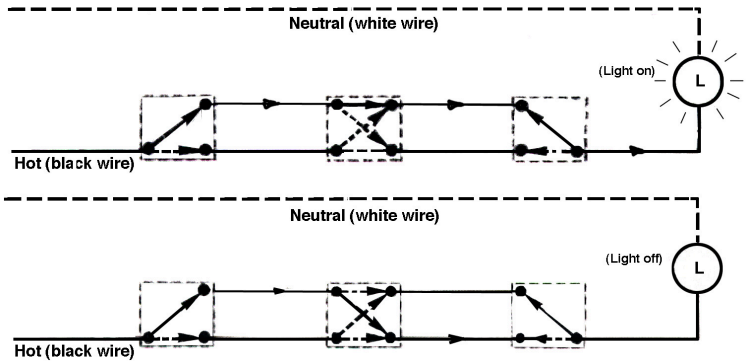
A four-way switch system consists of three or more switches to control the same light. The system is often used in staircases to control the lighting at three different levels and in rooms with several entry points. The set-up consists of two 3-way switches and one or more 4-way switches *(see illustration)*. Notice that the switches do not control the neutral wire.



Two 3-way switches and one 4-way switch controlling one light (ground wire not shown). Different manufacturers may have other combinations of connections — be sure to read the instruction sheets that come with the switches.

HOW THE SWITCHES ROUTE POWER

The schematic drawing below illustrates how the contact points within the switches can route the electricity to the light fixture:



Top: contacts aligned, light on. Bottom: one switch flipped, light off.

Home Repair Resource Center empowers homeowners to maintain their homes for sustainable and diverse communities.

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