



FAQ's regarding existing 3-Wire Systems

Q: I have two switches that control the same light. One of these switches has failed and needs replaced but the other is working fine still. Am I able to replace the one location with Touch-Plate? Can one light still be controlled by two switches if one is Touch-Plate and the other is my original GE?

A: Great question. Yes, a 3-way switch is not a problem. If you plan to replace the switch only, there is no cause for concern with how the rest of the system will operate with it. By using 2 buttons for each existing rocker switch, you are literally installing a 2-wire station as a 3-wire switch. It will operate just as a 3-wire switch, differing only in the fact that two buttons are used. The rest of the system will not be able to tell a difference between the original 3-wire switch and the replacement 2-wire.

Q: My existing switches are mounted horizontally...not vertically like the ones shown on your site. Is that a problem?

A: It was common for some of the older systems, especially Remcon, to mount their wall boxes horizontally. Our switches are able to mount to an existing wall box or trim ring, regardless if it is horizontal or vertical. It would purely be a cosmetic choice to make, choosing the Touch-Plate style that suites you when mounted in this fashion.

Q: I really need to replace my switches as I can't find direct replacements anymore, and they are failing and looking very outdated. I like the idea of upgrading the system completely, but it's not likely in my budget right now. Can I replace just the switches right now and then pursue the upgrade down the road?

A: To answer your question directly, the answer is yes. Touch-Plate switches are compatible with an existing 3-wire system by using two buttons to control ON and OFF. However, the 2-wire switches were designed for momentary use, where just one button would control both functions. Pressing the button once would turn the light ON, another press would turn it OFF, and so on. The only problem with doing a full switch upgrade first and then pursuing the actual system later is that the extra buttons will no longer be needed when the system is updated. It's just something to think about. There would be a lesser investment made in actual switches if the system upgrade occurred at the same time, as only one button would be required for each existing rocker switch. But again, it is not a huge problem. Keeping your switches in good condition will keep your system working for longer. If the upgrade is not an immediate step in the future, it would not be a bad idea to replace the switches now. However, if you plan to pursue the system upgrade in a year or two, it would be wise and cost-effective to wait and do it all at once. Feel free to send us some pictures and information if you wish to see how our solution could fit within your budget.



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Q: *My existing 3-wire switch lights up when the light is ON. Will I lose that function when replacing it with a Touch-Plate switch?*

A: No, a status feedback will remain an option for you. The key factor for allowing pilot/LED control is the additional wire that is needed to power the indicator light. Since your system already has a button that lights up, the extra wire used previously will be used with a newer Touch-Plate style. Feel free to choose any contact closure switch style that has an LED option. The LEDs will be compatible with your existing transformers. Just keep in mind that the LED option only gives a status when the room light is ON. The OFF button LED will never light up.