How to Repair LED Strip Lights

Learn how to remove and replace a faulty section of LED light strips by soldering new section of lights in.

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INTRODUCTION

If your LED light strips are malfunctioning, then this guide may be what you need. Light strips malfunction when there is a faulty connection or wiring between two sections of the strips. These faulty connections can hinder the power flow and deactivate other working strips that are connected to the faulty strip.

The best way to fix this problem is to replace the faulty section with a new working strip. This guide will walk you through the steps of replacing your faulty light strips. You will learn how to identify which strip is in need of replacing, as well as how to remove that strip from the working strip. You will also see how to replace and reconnect the two working strips so that they are secured and working properly.

Reconnecting the strips will be completed by soldering the two working strips together by their corresponding connections.

If soldering is not a skill you are familiar with, you should first check out another guide on the basics of soldering. It is called “How to Solder and Desolder Connections.”

Before attempting this guide, remember to turn off the power to the strips that will be handled.

TOOLS:
- Desoldering Braid (1)
- Staples (1)
- Soldering Iron (1)
- Solder (1)

PARTS:
- RGB LED Strip (1)
**Step 1 — How to Repair LED Strip Lights**

- Find the spot where the lights stop working and where there are four connections labeled in descending order, "12V, R, G, B" with a scissor "cut here" marking and a copper colored backing.

**Step 2**

- With a scissor, cut along the "cut here" line, separating the faulty strip from the working strip.
Step 3

- Align the new strip next to the working strip and keep them steady. Look at the four connections like a mirror image. R to R, G to G, and so on and so forth. Apply solder in any order for all four connections. Make sure solder is secured and steady.
A solder and soldering iron are fairly common and easy to acquire at a hardware store. Extra length of lights may be left over from initial use, use these first before buying more in order to lower costs. In order to put the lights back where they originally were, some form of an adhesive agent may need to be utilized.

Step 4

- Once the four connections are soldered securely, plug in the strip and turn the lights to all three colors to ensure that the connections are steady. Now you may place the lights where so desired.

- If the strips had an adhesive backing, some new adhesive material may be required.