

Quality workmanship. Clear communication. Reliable service.

That's It Trades Service provides professional electrical and security solutions across residential, commercial and project environments.

Electrical | Security | Repairs & Maintenance | Project Advisory

Licensed & insured Electrical Contractor and Security Provider.

How They Work

AC (Alternating Current) Ceiling Fans

- Use a standard AC induction motor powered directly by the 240V mains.
- AC fans use an AC motor connected to the household electricity supply.
- Speed is typically controlled through a wall-mounted regulator or other fan-speed controller.

DC (Direct Current) Ceiling Fans

- DC fans use a brushless DC motor while connecting to the normal household AC electricity supply. Internal electronics convert the AC supply to DC and electronically control motor speed.

Why many people choose DC fans

- DC models are generally more energy-efficient and cheaper to run. Over time, this can save significantly on power bills, especially in Cairns, where ceiling fans are often used year-round.
- In homes with multiple fans, the lower running costs of efficient DC models can add up over time.

Noise Levels

- **AC fan** noise varies by model and installation.
- **DC fans** tend to operate more quietly, although noise varies by model and installation.

Speed & Control

Aspect	AC Fans	DC Fans
Speed Settings	Usually 3–5 speeds	Often 6–7 speeds or more
Reversible Function	Usually manual (wall switch)	Commonly available; check individual model.
Control Type	Wall switch or pull cord	Remote controls are common on DC models; smart/app control is available on some models.

Common advantages of DC fans

- ✓ **Energy-efficient** → NSW Government guidance states DC motor fans can be around 70% more efficient than AC motor models.
- ✓ **Often quieter** → Ideal for bedrooms and living spaces
- ✓ **More speed control** → DC models commonly provide a wider range of speed settings.
- ✓ **Reverse mode is available on many models** → Useful for circulating warm air during cooler weather.
- ✓ **Smart controls** → Some models offer Wi-Fi, app or voice-assistant integration.

Choosing a ceiling fan for Cairns

Given Cairns' hot, humid climate, ceiling fans are commonly used for extended periods. DC ceiling fans can be a particularly good option.

- **Lower power bills** → Especially when multiple fans are running daily.
- **Quieter operation** → Many DC models are well suited to bedrooms.
- **CHOICE recommends considering a tropically rated fan in high-humidity locations such as Cairns and North Queensland.** High humidity can affect fan components, so consider appropriate blade materials and motor sealing.

That's It Trades Service

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Performance & Airflow

Motor type alone does not determine how much air a ceiling fan will move. Blade design, fan diameter, motor performance and the selected speed all influence airflow. When comparing fans, consider the manufacturer's airflow specifications and independent test results rather than choosing solely on whether the fan uses an AC or DC motor.

Information current as at October 2026. General information only. Product performance and features vary by manufacturer and model. Sources include NSW Climate and Energy Action and CHOICE.