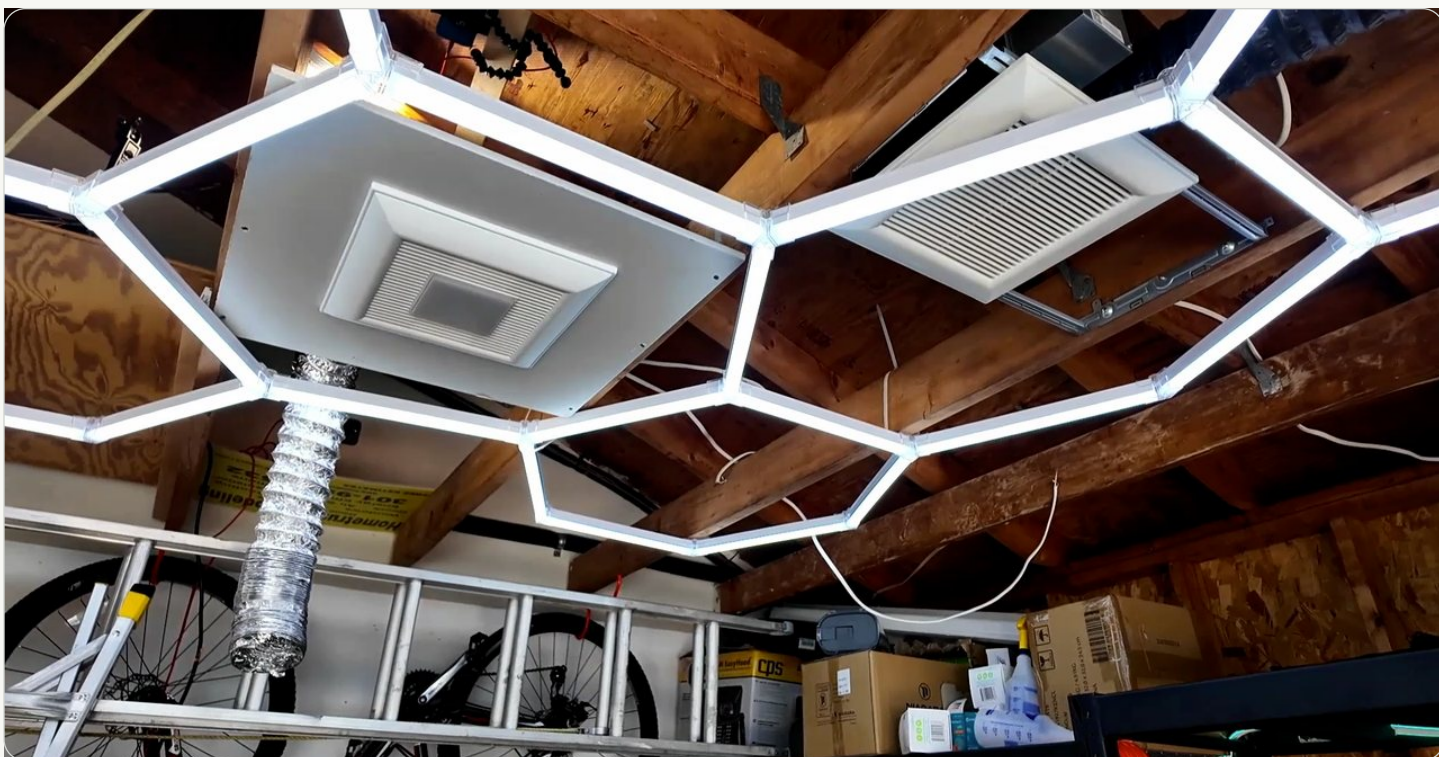


# PANASONIC WHISPERFIT INSTALLATION COMPANION GUIDE

A visual, step-by-step field guide designed to be used alongside the full installation video.



## Designed for retrofit installations using the Flex-Z Fast Bracket

Covers the fan-only FV-0511VF1 and the light-equipped FV-0511VFL1 installation shown in the video. Use this guide to understand the sequence, spot the critical details, and jump directly to the matching video step.



WATCH THE FULL INSTALL

WATCH VIDEO 17:23

# BEFORE YOU START

A little planning up front makes the retrofit much easier - especially when you are working entirely from the bathroom side.

## THIS GUIDE ASSUMES

- ✓ The old fan housing has already been removed.
- ✓ The existing duct and wiring are reachable through the ceiling opening.
- ✓ You have mapped the duct direction and checked for framing, wiring, plumbing, and other obstructions.
- ✓ You are comfortable stopping and bringing in an electrician if the existing wiring does not match the arrangement shown.



### SAFETY FIRST

Before touching any wiring, shut off the breaker and verify the conductors are de-energized with a voltage tester. Do not route cable through an unprotected metal knockout.

## TOOLS & MATERIALS

Have ready: drywall cutting tools, drill/driver, screwdriver, voltage tester, approved cable connectors, wire connectors, duct fastening materials, and a stable ladder. A small ratcheting screwdriver can be especially helpful when a bracket screw is hard to reach.



ERIC'S TOOL LIST

### FAN ONLY

FV-0511VF1

### WITH LIGHT

FV-0511VFL1

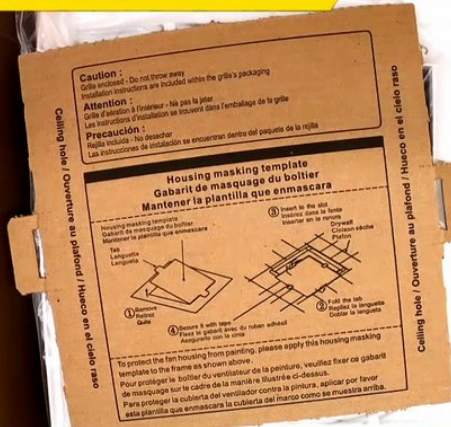
Important: This is a companion to the installation video, not a replacement for the Panasonic installation instructions. If your fan model, wiring, framing, or duct arrangement differs, follow the instructions supplied with your exact model.

## STEP 1

# PLAN THE CEILING OPENING

Use the included cardboard template as the reference, but map the duct route and framing before you cut.

## CEILING CUTOUT PREP



# USE THE INCLUDED TEMPLATE

*The packaging insert marks the opening*

### THINK FIRST, CUT SECOND

- ✓ If replacing an existing fan, use the old opening as your starting point.
- ✓ Choose the fan's final position and check the duct direction plus nearby framing, wiring, and plumbing.
- ✓ Align the Panasonic template with the framing and duct direction; remove only the additional drywall you need.
- ✓ Cut just outside the template line for working room, but do not create an oversized opening - the lower flange still needs solid drwall beneath it.

**WATCH THIS STEP 0:56**

**STEP 2**

# PREP THE FLEX-Z FAST BRACKET

This is the part worth understanding before you put anything above the drywall.



**1 PRE-START THE FOUR FRAMING SCREWS**



**2 FOLD THE BRACKET TO PASS IT THROUGH THE OPENING**

## WHY THE BRACKET MATTERS

The Flex-Z Fast Bracket becomes the structural support for the fan. Unlike a conventional housing that has to be pushed directly against a joist, the bracket is installed first and the remaining assemblies build from it.

### ERIC'S TIP

Start the four framing screws before the bracket goes above the ceiling. Orient the bracket so the screw sides face the joists, then fold it to fit through the opening.

**WATCH THIS STEP 2:44**

# THE RELATIONSHIP THAT MATTERS

If you understand this page, the rest of the installation gets much easier.



## TABS: UNDER THE JOISTS, ABOVE THE DRYWALL

The screws fasten the bracket to the framing; the tabs keep the bracket from lifting when the fan housing is pushed into place.

### WHAT YOU SHOULD SEE AND FEEL

- ✓ The four tabs are captured beneath the joists while remaining above the drywall plane.
- ✓ The bracket sits flat instead of rocking or lifting.
- ✓ The bracket is reasonably centered so the long mounting slots remain accessible from below.

**WATCH THIS STEP 4:20**

# VERIFY BEFORE YOU MOVE ON

Do not rush past this checkpoint. A solid bracket is the foundation for everything that follows.

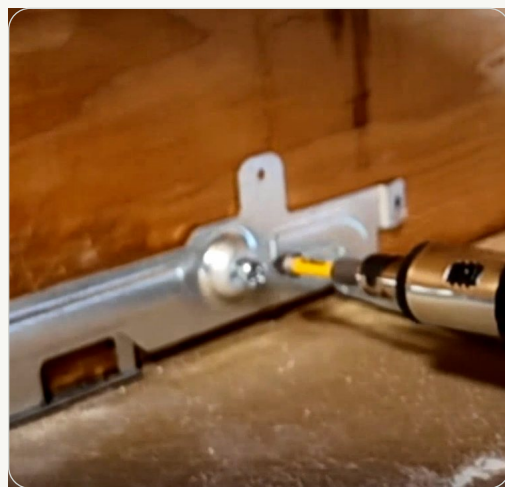


## THREE-PART CHECK

- ✓ All four tabs captured beneath the joists.
- ✓ Bracket flat and solid - it should not lift when you push upward.
- ✓ Both long mounting slots visible through the opening.

If the opening is slightly tight, trim only what is needed to expose the bracket slot. Do not enlarge the opening so much that the lower flange

**WATCH CHECK 7:38**

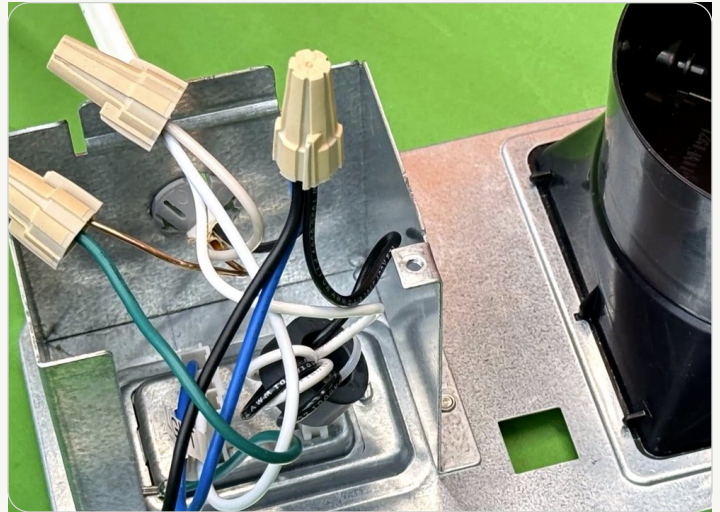


Tight access? A small ratcheting screwdriver can help.

## STEP 3

# MAKE THE ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS

The light-equipped model has more conductors, but the jobs are still simple: grounding, fan power, and light power.

**BEFORE WIRING**

Turn the breaker off and verify the conductors are de-energized. Bring each incoming cable through an approved connector installed in the housing knockout. Do not rely on wire color alone.

**THE ARRANGEMENT SHOWN IN THE VIDEO**

Ground: green fan wire + both bare copper grounds under an approved connector.

Fan circuit: fan black lead to the identified switched hot; fan white lead to that circuit's identified neutral.

Light circuit: light white lead to the identified light neutral. In the shown installation, the black and blue light leads share the switched hot so the LED and nightlight operate together.

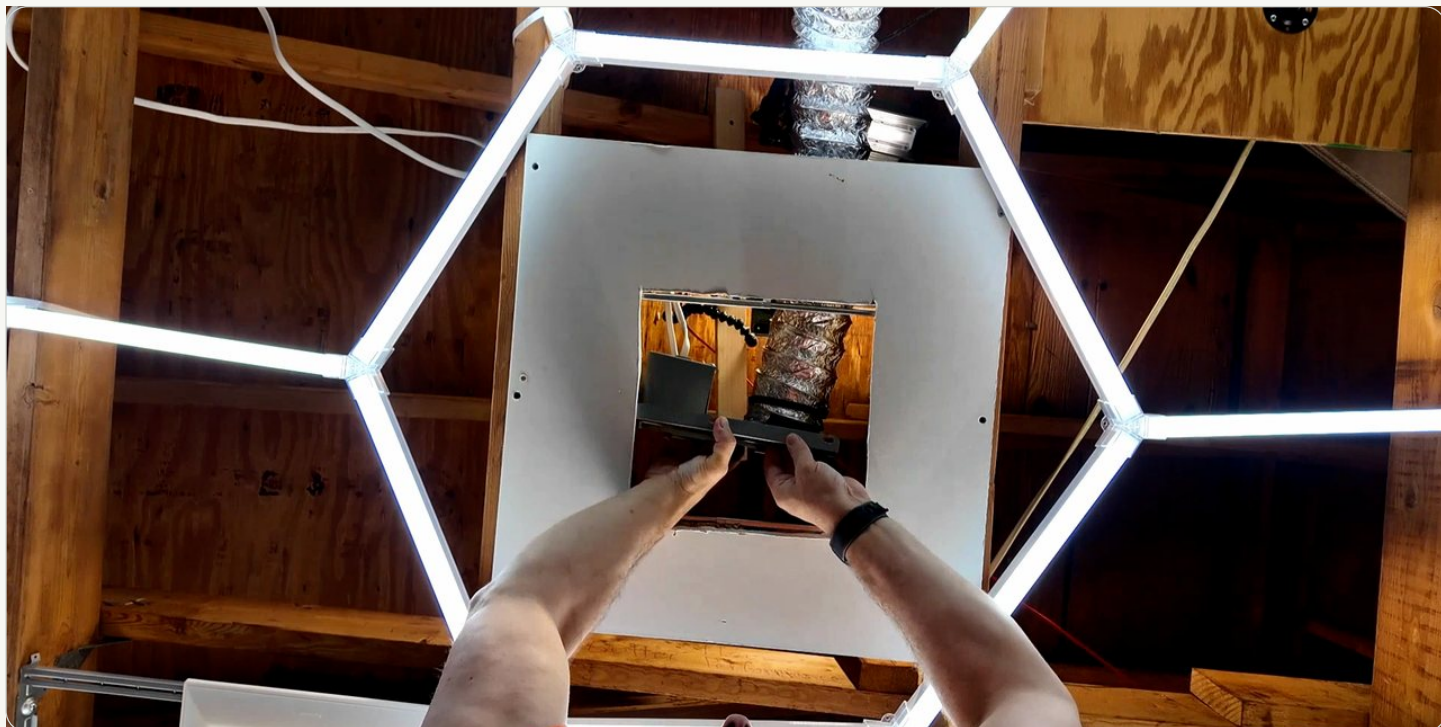
If your house wiring does not match this exact arrangement, stop. Follow the diagram supplied with your exact model or bring in an electrician.

**WATCH WIRING 8:41**

**STEP 4**

## CONNECT THE DUCT

A good fan still needs a good duct path. Protect the damper and keep the duct as open and smooth as practical.



### DUCT CHECK

- ✔ Use the full 4-inch connection when practical. The box includes a 3-inch reducer for an existing 3-inch duct that cannot reasonably be replaced.
- ✔ Before tightening the duct connection, confirm the damper can open freely.
- ✔ Expand the flex duct so it is not crumpled, crushed, or sharply kinked near the fan.
- ✔ Remember: selecting 110 CFM at the fan does not guarantee 110 CFM at the grille - duct resistance and the exterior termination still matter.

**WATCH DUCT 11:27**

## STEP 5

# INSTALL THE DUCT / ELECTRICAL ASSEMBLY

This assembly goes in before the motor housing because it contains the duct and house-wiring connections.

**PRO-TIP!**

## BOTTOM EDGE BELOW DRYWALL

**WHY IT MATTERS:**

The bottom edge must remain below the drywall so the assembly can fasten to the exposed bracket.

**POSITION CHECK:**

- Keep the bottom edge visible
- Align screw holes with the bracket
- Maintain a clear screw path
- Use the long slot for flexibility



EDGE  
**BELOW THE DRYWALL**



ALIGNMENT  
**BRACKET EXPOSED**



FASTENING  
**CLEAR SCREW PATH**

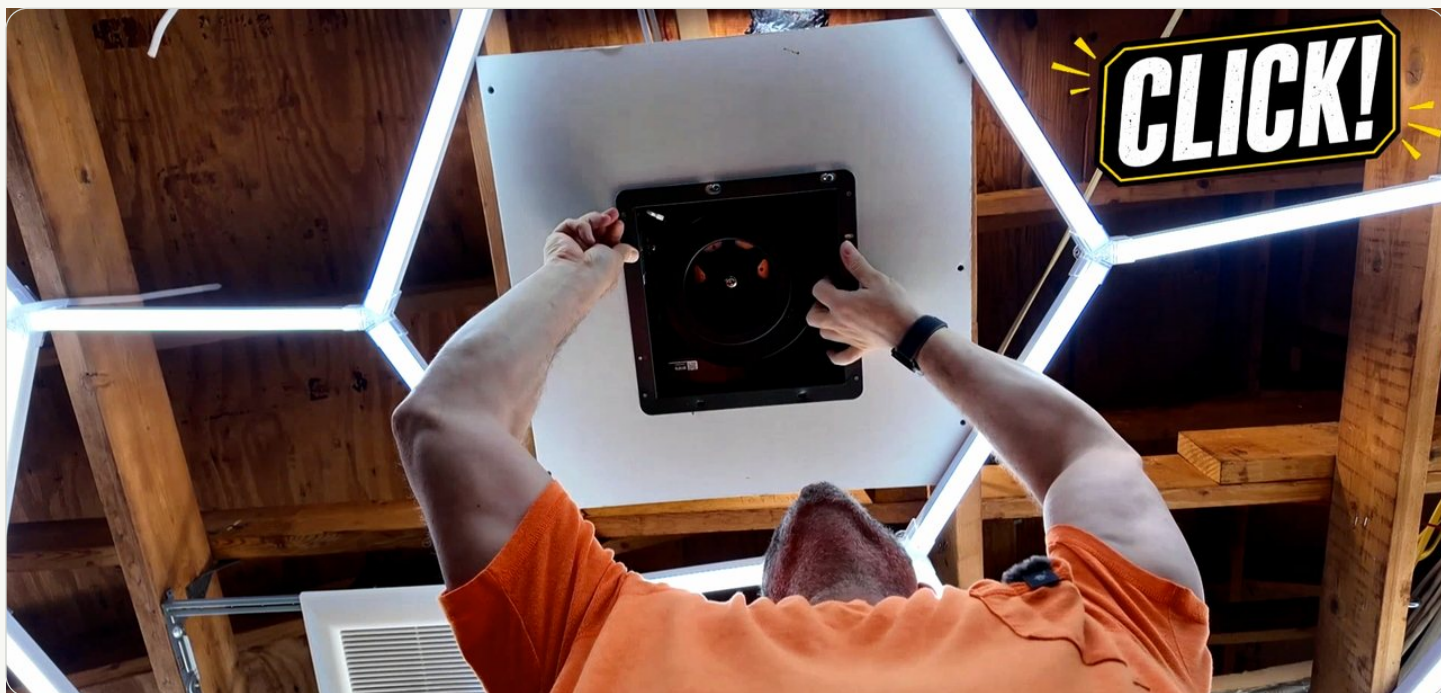
The key detail: keep the lower edge of the adapter flange below the drywall so the assembly can fasten into the exposed Flex-Z bracket. Make sure you have a clear screw path and secure the assembly with both self-drilling screws before bringing up the motor housing.

**WATCH THIS STEP 12:48**

**STEP 6**

## SLIDE, ALIGN, CLICK

The motor housing rides into guide rails and locks into the adapter before the final two screws are installed.



### INSTALLATION SEQUENCE

- ✓ Align both guide rails.
- ✓ Support the metal housing while pushing upward on the plastic motor housing.
- ✓ Listen/feel for the locking tab to click into the adapter.
- ✓ Once engaged, install the remaining two self-drilling screws.

**WATCH THE CLICK 14:18**

### DO NOT FORCE IT

If the housing will not click into place, recheck the guide rails and confirm that the adapter flange is still below the drywall.

## STEP 7

# DO NOT SKIP THE BONDING SCREW

Panasonic packages this small machine screw separately for a reason.

**PRO-TIP!**

## DO NOT SKIP THIS SCREW

**WHY IT MATTERS:**  
The supplied screw helps maintain ground continuity between the housing and adapter.

**FINAL CHECK:**

- ✓ Use the supplied screw
- ✓ Align both holes
- ✓ Tighten securely
- ✓ Confirm ground continuity



 **SUPPLIED PART**  
**USE THIS SCREW**

 **ALIGNMENT**  
**MATCH BOTH HOLES**

 **SAFETY**  
**GROUND CONTINUITY**

Install the supplied machine screw before connecting the fan plug. In the installation shown, this screw bonds the two metal housings for ground continuity. Align the holes, tighten it securely, and do not substitute this step with the surrounding housing screws.

**WATCH THIS STEP 16:01**

## STEP 8

## PLUG IN, GRILLE ON, SET THE AIRFLOW

Finish the electrical connections, install the grille/light, then choose the airflow setting that fits the bathroom.



### FINAL ASSEMBLY

- ✓ Plug the fan motor into its electrical connector.
- ✓ Hook the grille springs into the slots and let the grille hang while connecting the light (light model).
- ✓ Compress the springs and push the grille straight up until it sits snug and flush.

**WATCH FINAL 16:24**

### 50 / 80 / 110 CFM

A useful starting rule from the video is about 1 CFM per square foot of bathroom floor area, with 50 CFM as a minimum. Choose the next available setting that meets or exceeds the room requirement.

Once the fan is properly sized, duct diameter, resistance, and the exterior termination can matter more than agonizing over 80 versus 110 CFM.

# IF SOMETHING DOESN'T FIT, CHECK THIS FIRST

Most of the difficult moments in this retrofit trace back to a few relationships.

## BRACKET LIFTS OR FEELS FLIMSY

Recheck the four tabs. They should be captured beneath the joists while staying above the drywall. Tighten the framing screws so the bracket sits flat.

## CAN'T SEE A CLEAR MOUNTING PATH

Make sure the bracket is reasonably centered and both long slots are exposed. Trim only the minimum drywall needed for access.

## ADAPTER WILL NOT FASTEN CLEANLY

Confirm the lower flange is below the drywall and that the self-drilling screws have a clear path into the long bracket slot.

## MOTOR HOUSING WILL NOT CLICK

Stop forcing it. Recheck both guide rails and verify the adapter flange has not shifted above the drywall.

## FAN RUNS BUT AIRFLOW FEELS WEAK

Inspect the duct: crushed flex, an undersized or long run, a stuck damper, or a poor exterior termination can limit airflow even with the fan set to 110 CFM.

## WIRING DOES NOT MATCH THE VIDEO

Stop and use the wiring diagram for your exact model or bring in an electrician. The video wiring arrangement is one example, not a universal house-wiring diagram.

### BEST NEXT MOVE

If a static picture still does not make the relationship obvious, jump back to the matching video timestamp. The overhead and room-side views are there specifically to show what is happening above the drywall.

# INSTALLED. NOW VERIFY THE SYSTEM.

The fan is only one part of the ventilation path. Finish with a quick functional check before you call the job done.



- ✓ Restore power and verify the fan runs.
- ✓ Verify the light/nightlight arrangement behaves as intended (light model).
- ✓ Confirm the grille sits flat and flush.
- ✓ Confirm the duct damper and exterior termination are not restricting airflow.

## KEEP GOING

Use the full installation video when you need to see the motion of a step. If you have not purchased the fan yet, the links below go to the two versions covered by this guide.



### WATCH INSTALL

17-minute full video

[OPEN LINK >](#)



### FAN ONLY

Amazon associate link

[OPEN LINK >](#)



### WITH LIGHT

Amazon associate link

[OPEN LINK >](#)

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