

How to Choose LED Light Bulbs

Learn how to choose LED light bulbs the easy way - without the technical jargon. This 5 step guide from Ace simplifies all the technical terms. Instead of decoding how to convert watts to lumens and demystifying what kelvins are, you'll get helpful tips to start saving time, money and energy right away. Think of it as a guide to buying LED Light Bulbs – unplugged.

1. PICK THE FIXTURES

- Bring in your old bulb to match the correct base size. It's a good idea to replace bulbs in your hardest to reach fixtures and your most used fixtures first. You could save dozens of trips up a ladder to change burnt out bulbs. And, you'll see the most immediate energy savings.

2. CHOOSE THE BRIGHTNESS

- LEDs burn as bright as incandescents, but use far less energy (lower wattage) to do it. This brightness is referred to as "lumens." But you can just check the label for a "watt replacement" number that matches what you've got. When in doubt, 800 lumens is about equal to a 60 watt traditional bulb,

3. CHOOSE THE COLOR

- "Soft white" or "Daylight" bulbs are "user-friendly" terms for the color temperature of the light. . Soft White bulbs are warm, cozy and amber-tinted - like incandescent light. They're popular in rooms you relax and entertain in. "Daylight" bulbs are cooler toned. They add contrast and make whites brighter. They're good where you need to see details clearly – like in a crafting room or for reading. Also good if you have weakening eyesight or live in a region with short daylight hours.

4. CHOOSE THE RIGHT DIRECTION

- Pick a bulb that spreads the light in the right pattern for that spot. "Omni-directional" or all-around light distribution is best for main lighting like vanity fixtures, pendants, table lamps, ceiling lights, and chandeliers. The collar at the base of non omni-directional bulbs can block light from shining in some directions So use them in areas where a spotlight effect is OK, or in utility areas like a closet.

5. DIMMABLE OR NOT?

- You'll need dimmable bulbs in fixtures controlled by a dimmer switch. And 3-way bulbs for lamps that have a low, medium and high control. In areas like closets, or utility areas, or fixtures that aren't on a dimmer, a non-dimmable bulb can cost a little less.

HELPFUL TIPS:

- **UPGRADE IN PHASES** An LED bulb saves energy and money over its lifetime. But, at first, it's more than you're used to paying. So, change bulbs in your hardest-to-reach and your most used fixtures first. LEDs last more than 20 years, so switching bulbs you can't reach without a ladder could save about 25 trips. Switch to LED's in the 5 fixtures you use most often and you'll see the most immediate energy savings.
- **UPGRADE CAN LIGHTS** Instead of replacing bulbs in your can lights, LED retrofit kits combine the bulb and trim ring for a more polished, flush appearance. They install so easily, and it could be 20 years or more before you have to replace one.

UPGRADE DIMMER SWITCHES If you use LED's in a standard dimmer switch, the bulbs may flicker, hum, or burn out within months. Newer "universal" dimmers are made to regulate the current to the electronic circuits in an LED bulb.

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NOTE: Always follow manufacturer's recommended safety precautions and instructions for the products you use.

