

Shopping List

Room	Watts	Quantity Needed	Notes*
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* **Consider** experimenting to learn, lamp watts is important, do you have enough light, lamp life, switching, indoor vs. outdoor, shape and style, and light color.

A Shopping Guide

1. Buy and install as many lights as you use. On average, over the lifetime of the new bulb, they are worth \$100 in savings for every one you replace. There are many different kinds of light bulbs. There are standard “A” lamps, flood lights, spot lights, indoor- and outdoor-rated lights, lights for candelabras, recessed lights, and even bug lights. **Try to replace them all.** If you are unsure about something, ask questions. Spend time. You will not be perfect the first time. It took over 100 years to get where we are with the light bulb. Learn and profit! Read the packaging. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes and correct them.
2. Just make a note of the **wattage of the lamp** you are trying to replace. The packaging of the replacements always refers to the “equivalent wattage”; i.e., it may say “60-watt equivalent” and then in the smaller print that the CFL is 15 watts. This is what saves so much in energy costs. If you need a brighter light but don’t want to pay a higher bill get a greater equivalent lamp like an 18-watt; so, for three additional watts, you get the amount of light from a standard 75-watt lamp.
3. **Lamp life** is one of the great benefits of the new CFLs. If you have a choice between 8000-, 10,000- and 12,000-hour lamps, pick the one that lasts the longest.
4. **Types of switches** can give you some problems. A CFL must be rated for a dimmer circuit in order to be used on a dimmer circuit. If you use a three-way switch on the lamp, you can buy a three-way CFL bulb. They are rather expensive, but the best benefit may be the longer lamp life, which results in not having to replace a rather expensive standard three-way lamp when one of the light levels burns out.
5. If you are replacing **outdoor lights**, be sure the replacement is rated for outdoor use – do not select just a flood light. Check the packaging.
6. Make a note of the **shape and style** of the lamp you are shopping to replace. For instance, some lampshades require a round bulb to sit on; and so some compact fluorescents are designed with that round shape. In another situation, a chandelier’s style may call for a stylish shaped bulb.
7. If you want **warm white or cool white**, you can have it. Read the packaging. Try not to mix them in your order as it will show. Look for the light color display at the store.