

Light is an important facet of your interior decorating scheme. Color and light go hand in hand, so the correct bulb will make the colors in your room really shine! Depending on the type of light – ambient, task, or accent – the bulb brightness will vary. The information listed below will assist you with bulb types. Light bulbs differ in a number of ways – wattage, lumens, expense of use – so I've provided some basic terminology and a bulb comparison.

Light Bulb Terms

Watt – how much energy the bulb uses to operate; the higher the watts, the greater the cost to use.

Lumens – the amount of light a bulb provides, the brightness; one lumen equals one foot-candle falling on one square foot of area. If your room is 100 square feet, the bare minimum you need is 100 lumens - this is not watts! The greater the lumens, the brighter the bulb.

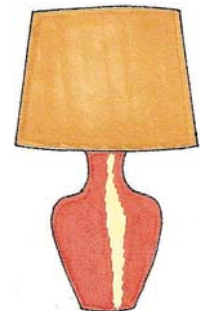
Incandescent Bulb – provides light by heating the filament inside; casts light in the red-yellow spectrum, the light can become dimmer and more yellow toned as the bulb ages.

Halogen – a different type of incandescent bulb based on the use of a special gas inside; more efficient than standard incandescent bulbs, but still as hot; casts a whiter, brighter light with a longer life span.

Fluorescent – uses mercury and gas to provide light; typically used for plants, aquariums, and black lights; they come in soft white, cool white, and 'natural sunlight' types.

60-Watt (60W) Bulb Comparison

Compare lumens and bulb 'life' when purchasing light bulbs, not just the wattage. The fixture requiring the bulb will specify the maximum wattage – **never** exceed the recommended maximum wattage, this could result in a fire hazard.



Halogen

60W – 650 lumens – 3000 hours

60W – 840 lumens – 3000 hours

60W – 900 lumens – 3000 hours

Incandescent

60W – 680 lumens – 1000 hours

60W – 900 lumens – 1500 hours

3-Way Bulb Comparison (Various wattages)

30/70/100W – 285/920/1205 lumens – 1500 hours

30/70/100W – 305/995/1300 lumens – 1750 hours

50/100/150W – 450/1150/1610 lumens – 1200 hours

50/200/250W – 575/3120/3695 lumens – 1750 hours