

How to Read & Understand Lighting Labels

The Lighting Facts label's objective is to provide consumers with simple information when selecting the most appropriate energy-efficient bulb.

To cut through the confusion, we've developed this guide to help you understand the most common terms used in lighting along with specifications and certifications.



1

Brightness

A light bulb's wattage is no longer used to determine its brightness. Instead, a bulb's brightness is rated in lumens. The more lumens there are, the brighter the bulb.



2

Estimated Yearly Energy Cost

This is the cost to light your bulb based on 3 hours a day and 11 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh). With LEDs, costs are a fraction of traditional incandescent bulbs.



3

Life

LEDs list their lifespan on the label in years but they typically do not burn out. Instead, the light-emitting diode fades over time and is considered useful until it's decreased by 30 percent. The useful life is what you'll see on the label.



4

Light Appearance (Light Color)

Light color is measured on a temperature scale represented in Kelvin (K). The "warmer" the light, the lower the color temperature. Warm, yellow-colored lights commonly used in rooms such as living room and home offices have a color temperature of 2700 K. Cooler, blue-white lights used in bathrooms and kitchens are at 5000 K and up.



5

Energy Used

A light bulb's wattage indicates the energy the bulb uses. Energy-efficient light bulbs like LEDs list their 'watt equivalent' to communicate how bright the bulb is compared to an incandescent of much higher wattage. So, a 60-watt equivalent LED light bulb may only use 10 watts and but be just as bright as a 60-watt incandescent.