

Metrics to Consider When Choosing Lighting for a Home



One of the most important metrics to measure when lighting a home is the number of [lumens lighting](#) produced by a fixture. While watts used to be the brightness measurement, the new energy-efficient LED technology has eliminated this as a reliable way to judge light. It's now better to calculate the lux (a measure of area) and the luminous efficacy of a fixture. Luckily, you can find a variety of modern LED light bulbs, which allow you to choose the one that best suits your needs.

Using the lux and luminous efficacy in conjunction with the watts, you'll be able to calculate the actual cost of a lighting solution. You'll also be able to determine if it's a worthwhile investment. For instance, a high luminous efficacy bulb could last 15 years without needing to be replaced, whereas an incandescent bulb will only last around five.

Another critical metric to consider is color temperature. A higher color temperature provides a brighter light with a bluish, daylight-like appearance. In contrast, a low color temperature offers a warmer, yellowish light. The most common colors used in household lighting fixtures are those in the 2700K to 3500K range, while higher temperatures are typically used in commercial settings.

Another metric you should take note of is the Lighting Facts label. This is a standard feature found on most lamps used for lighting purposes. The label, which should be labeled on the packaging, shows the bulb's luminosity, the estimated operating costs for a year, and the color of the light. If you need to get more familiar with the features of the label, it's always a good idea to get professional advice before making a purchase.

Although it's tempting to go with the most luminous light bulbs, selecting the bulb with the highest luminous efficacy is best. That's because a higher luminous efficacy will help you save money on electricity and provide the kind of lighting you need. Plus, it will last for a long time. Choosing a lighting fixture for a room is a complex process. It considers several factors, such as the size of the room, the type of lighting it requires, and the tasks it will be used for. Using a lighting calculator, you can determine how many lumens and watts are needed to illuminate a

room. Depending on the room type, look for a fixture that produces 20 to 80 lumens per square foot.

When looking for a lighting solution, consulting with an architect or contractor is a good idea. They will know what local codes require and can help you decide on a suitable lighting scheme. Whether you're remodeling your house, building a new one, or just adding a few new lights, you should ensure you're using the most appropriate watts and lumens. Besides the right bulbs, you can also opt for solar or solar-powered fixtures to help reduce the amount of electricity needed for your lighting.