

# Types of Lightbulbs: How to Choose the Right One

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Light up your life.



Along with the right lamp, chandelier, or pendant, the type of lightbulb chosen can transform the ambience and style of a room. Learn about the different types of lightbulbs, color options, and base types to ensure you pick the right one for your home.

## Types of Lightbulbs

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Incandescent



CFL



Halogen



LED

There are four popular types of lightbulbs: incandescent, compact fluorescent (CFL), halogen, and light-emitting diode (LED).

**Light-Emitting Diode (LED):** One of the most energy-efficient lightbulb types, it gives off no heat, contains no mercury, and emits a bright light. They provide directional light so they are great for task lighting. Some light fixtures come with LED lights built-in and are referred to as integrated LED. They are long lasting (up to 50,000 hours) and are great for hard-to-reach places.

#### Shop LED Lightbulbs

**Incandescent:** These are the most commonly used type of bulb and are usually the least expensive. They emit a warm light, can be used with dimmers, and usually last up to a year – longer than halogen lightbulbs, but not as long as CFL or LED lightbulbs. They are also

not as energy-efficient as other lightbulb types.

### Shop Incandescent Lightbulbs

**Compact Fluorescent (CFL):** These energy-efficient bulbs can emit a wide range of colors depending on the model you choose. They often take some time to warm up and get brighter. Use these to illuminate large spaces, such as basements, great rooms, and kitchens. They are less expensive than LED lights and can last longer than incandescent lights. These lightbulbs contain mercury, so you want to handle them carefully. Once they burn out, they are recyclable.

### Shop CFL Lightbulbs

**Halogen:** These lights emit a white light that simulates high-noon daylight. Energy-efficient and dimmable, they are great for recessed lighting, pendant lights, and under cabinet lighting. This lightbulb has the shortest lifespan of the four. However, it is important to note that they warm quickly, so they should be kept away from fire-hazardous materials. We also recommend using gloves to change the bulb as oil from your hands can make the bulb explode if it gets too hot.

### Shop Halogen Lightbulbs

## **Tip!**

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For a fully customizable ambience, choose a smart lightbulb. They connect to an app or remote and allow you to change color with the touch of a button.

### Shop Smart Lightbulbs

## **What Are Watts?**

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Watts refer to how much energy the lightbulb uses. The more wattage a light requires the more power it will consume to produce light. To emit a brighter light, the bulb will also need a higher wattage. For example, a 200 watt bulb will use more power than a 100 watt bulb, but it will also give off more light. However, LED lightbulbs are compatible with any fixture no matter what the wattage requirement is.

Efficiency	Least <span style="float: right;">Most</span>			
Bulb Type	 Standard	 Halogen	 CFL	 LED
<b>450</b> Lumens	40W	29W	9W	6W
<b>800</b> Lumens	60W	42W	14W	9W
<b>1100</b> Lumens	75W	53W	18W	11W
<b>1600</b> Lumens	100W	72W	23W	14W

## How Many Lumens Do I Need?

Lumens refer to the amount of light that is radiated, or the lightbulb brightness. Similar to watts, the higher the lumen, the brighter the light. To understand how many lumens you need, you must first find the square footage of the room or area you are trying to light. To find the square footage, multiply the room's length by the width. We recommend 20 lumens per square foot for most rooms, but check out the table below to see how many lumens you need for every room in your home. However, if you have extra-dark rooms or dark wall paneling, we recommend adding an additional 10 lumens per square foot. Remember that the total number of lumens can be spread across a few different light fixtures throughout the room. One light fixture doesn't have to handle all the lumens required to light your space.



Room	Lumens Recommended Per Square Foot
Living Rooms and Bedrooms	20
Hallways	10
Kitchens and Dining	30–40
Bathrooms	70–80

## Color Temperature Chart

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Lightbulbs are available in different colors: candlelight, warm white, neutral white, and daylight. The colors are measured on the Kelvins (K) temperature scale. Check out the color temperature chart below to see which Kelvin number is best for your home.

**Candlelight (1,000K – 2,600K):** Lightbulbs with less than 2,000K give off a dim glow, similar to candlelight. They are not typically used for illuminating large work areas and are better used to provide a soft glow and ambience to the room. Lightbulbs with more than 2,000K give off a soft glow and can be used anywhere you would like ambient lighting, such as table lamps and floor lamps.

### Shop Candlelight Bulbs

**Warm White (2,600K – 3,000K):** This is the standard color of an incandescent bulb and ideal for bedrooms, dining rooms, and living rooms. They are typically used as ceiling and wall lights.

### Shop Warm White Bulbs

**Neutral White (3,000K – 5,000K):** This cool white-colored option provides a bright

light. It is great for task lighting, especially in your kitchen, home office, and bathroom.

### Shop Neutral White Bulbs

**Daylight (5,000K+):** This provides a crisp light that is similar to daylight. This color temperature is perfect for areas with specific tasks, such as studying or reading, and for outdoor and security lighting.

### Shop Daylight Bulbs



#### Candlelight

(1,000 K – 2,600 K)

Offers a soft glow and adds ambience.

##### Example uses:

Table lamps and floor lamps.



#### Warm White

(2,600 K – 3,000 K)

Standard color for inviting and warm lighting.

##### Example uses:

Living rooms, bedrooms, dining rooms, wall and ceiling lights.



#### Neutral White

(3,000 K – 5,000 K)

Bright and vibrant, for staying focused.

##### Example uses:

Garages, work settings, basements, task lighting, kitchens, home offices, and bathrooms.



#### Daylight

(5,000 K+)

Invigorating and sharp, for areas with specific tasks.

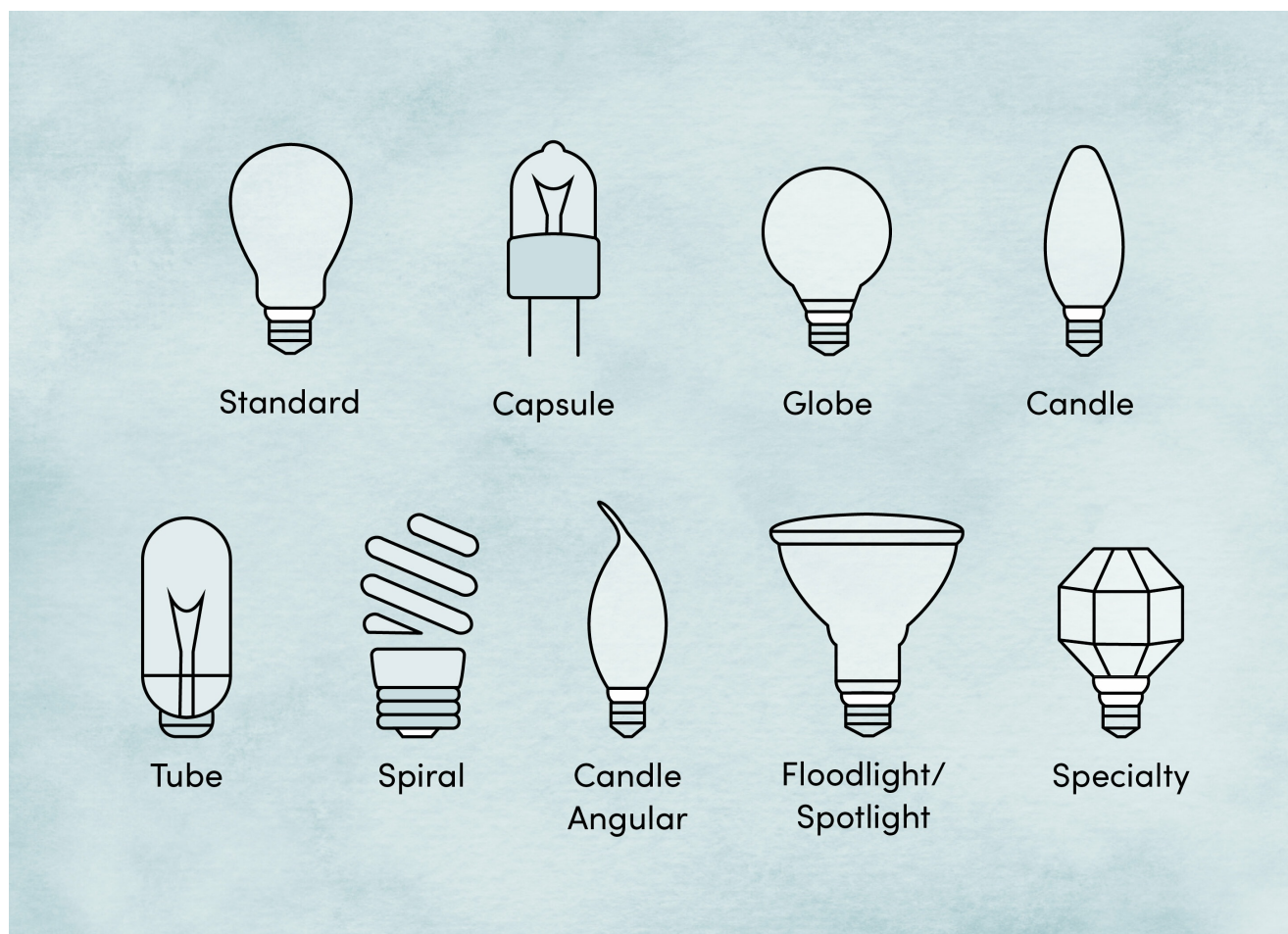
##### Example uses:

Display areas, security lighting, garages, task areas, studying, and reading areas.

## Lightbulb Shapes

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Lightbulbs are available in various shapes. The right shape can complement your home's style. Have a traditional chandelier? Opt for a candle or candle-angular-shaped lightbulb. Have a modern pendant light? Choose a globe-shaped lightbulb. Check out the most popular lightbulb shapes below.



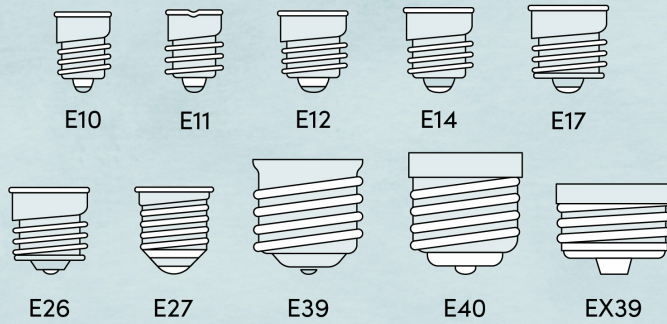
## Lightbulb Bases

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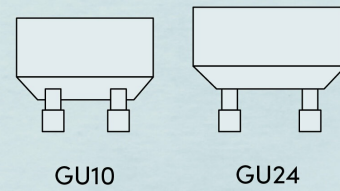
It is crucial to ensure that the lightbulb's base size fits your light fixture. The most popular bases are "Edisons", which have a screwed-in design and are available in many sizes. Others include screw bases, twist and lock bases, BI pin bases, and fluorescent pin bases. Each of these bulb bases are marked with a specific code. For example, E26, E12, or E39. Check your light fixture to see what lightbulb base size and type it should be paired with. Most light fixtures also have the code marked on a label that sits on the socket (where the lightbulb screws into the fixture). On Wayfair, you can also find this information in a light fixture's product description under "Specifications".



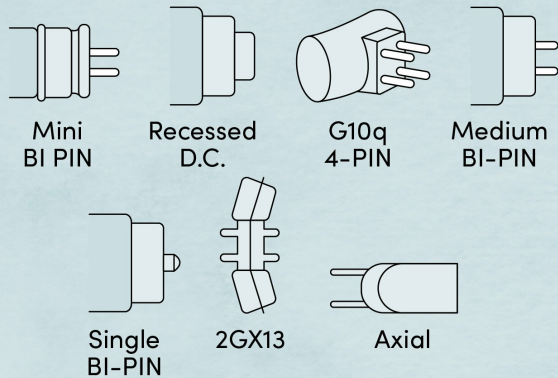
## Screw Bases



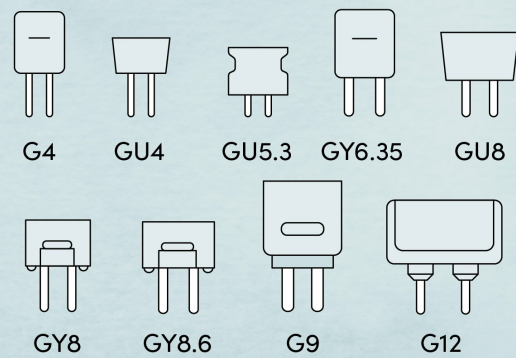
## Twist and Lock Bases



## Fluorescent Pin Bases



## BI Pin Bases

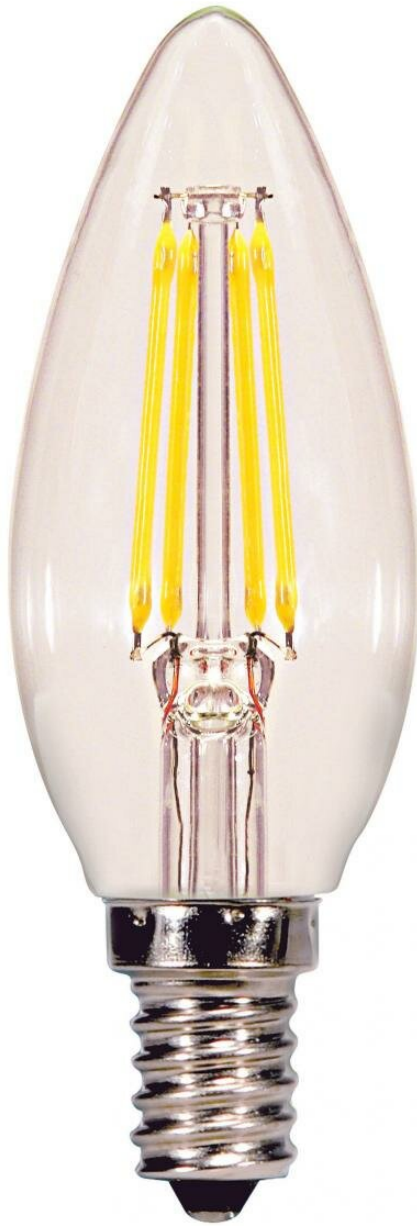


## Tip!

If you are shopping for lightbulbs that will be used outside, make sure they are damp- or wet-rated, so they can handle either brief moisture or direct water exposure.

## Ready to Shop? Check These Out!





**4 Watt (40 Watt Equivalent), C11 LED, Dimmable Light Bulb,  
E12/Candelabra Base (Set of 6)**

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**A19 Incandescent, Dimmable Light Bulb, Warm White (2200K)  
E26/Medium (Standard) Base**

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**60 Watt Equivalent, A19 LED Smart Light Bulb, Full Color, E26/Medium (Standard) Base**

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**25 Watt Equivalent E12 Dimmable LED Edison Candle Light Bulb  
Frosted**

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**100 Watt Equivalent, A19 LED, Non-Dimmable Light Bulb,  
E26/Medium (Standard) Base (Set of 4)**

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