

## LED LIGHTING: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE (2016)

- ❖ LED lighting, replacing old-style bulbs, will **immediately start saving you a lot of money** and will carry on saving you a lot of money every year
- ❖ **You DON'T need special fittings for LED** – they'll go into all your existing fittings
- ❖ LEDs have advanced hugely – now you can get a really wide range of **warm shades**, and **dimnable** ones (see next page)
- ❖ The old halogen bulbs are no longer made, and by late 2017 won't be in the shops. DON'T stockpile them – save £££ by switching to LED now



← Got these old-style lightbulbs?  
Replacing them with LED is likely to save you **c.£10+/ year per lightbulb**

CFLs – odd-shaped tubular bulbs – → came in some years ago. They were lowish-energy (say 15 watts). They gave low-energy bulbs a bit of a bad name as they took a while to light up and tended to fade after a couple of years; now they're almost extinct. **Replace them asap to save money!**



### REDUCE YOUR LIGHTING BILL BY 90%, INSTANTLY

You probably spend £10-15/ year in electricity per lightbulb running old-style bulbs for a few hours a day, and the bulb needs replacing every couple of years. An LED equivalent costs only £1/year to run, and the bulb can last for 20 years. **Do the sums:**

	<b>Old-style</b>	<b>LED</b>
Example <b>bulb cost</b> over 10 years	£10 (5 bulbs x £2)	£4 **
<b>Electricity p.a. per bulb *</b>	c.£10-15	c.£1
<b>So total cost over 10 years</b> (including electricity and bulbs)	<b>c. £110-160</b>	<b>c. £14</b>
	<b>PER LIGHTBULB</b>	<b>PER LIGHTBULB</b>

\* Rough figure, @ 4-5 hours/ day @ 15p/ kw/hour (typical cost)

\*\* Though LED prices are falling too fast for me to keep up on this page

### LED shopping tips

- ❖ Lightbulbs are no longer a consumable – **LEDs last for up to 20 years**, so it's worth investing well; ask a knowledgeable supplier for advice
- ❖ Compare the lumens - these are the 'new watts', and measure **brightness**. Brighter may cost a bit more – you get just what you pay for
- ❖ Be suspicious of **very cheap brands** - they may not last as long

See over for some local and online suppliers of LED, and notes on a couple of special LED cases: GU5.3 thin-pin bulbs, and a nice idea for dimmables.



Local shops in Lewes	With no guarantees, here are some websites (2016) offering a range of LED lightbulbs
<p>EFT Electrical, an independent specialist in Lewes, sell LED bulbs at decent prices and offer expert advice and demos – (<a href="http://www.eft-electrical.com">www.eft-electrical.com</a>); down Brooks Lane past Homebase, R at the T-junction, at the end on the L</p> <p>Homebase also sell a wide range of LED bulbs, with some good offers</p>	<p><a href="http://www.homewatt.co.uk">www.homewatt.co.uk</a> *      <a href="http://brightonledlighting.com">http://brightonledlighting.com</a>  <a href="http://www.ledcentre.uk.com">www.ledcentre.uk.com</a> *      <a href="http://www.energylightbulbs.co.uk">www.energylightbulbs.co.uk</a>  <a href="http://www.ledhut.co.uk">www.ledhut.co.uk</a> *      <a href="http://www.ledbulbs.co.uk">www.ledbulbs.co.uk</a>  <a href="http://www.lustrumlight.co.uk">www.lustrumlight.co.uk</a>  **  <a href="http://www.megamanuk.com">www.megamanuk.com</a> **      * I've used these  <a href="http://www.simplyled.co.uk">www.simplyled.co.uk</a> **      ** recommended by a colleague</p>

## A couple of special cases:

### Got GU5.3 thin-pin downlighter bulbs?

You can now buy good LED versions, but you do still need to do one of the following:

- **Change all but one of your old GU5.3 bulbs** in a circuit; leave that one old-style bulb in, because the GU5.3 circuit needs a certain number of watts to work and the low-energy LEDs don't provide enough!
  - Get an electrician to make a **simple change to your circuit**, installing a small 'driver' which'll allow you to use all LEDs. Better value in the longer run to do this
- Or you can just get your electrician to **change your GU5.3 fittings to GU10**, which take LED with no trouble



GU5.3 – take action



GU10 – fine

### And breaking news on dimmable LEDs

Dimmable LEDs can be quite expensive; but there are now versions which you can simply click to low, medium or high lighting, and these are **cheaper** than fully-dimmable ones. Ask at EFT Electrical.