

LED LIGHTING: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE (2024)

Everything's changed in the last 20 years. The old incandescent/halogen etc lightbulbs are no longer made, and you'll notice that Homebase etc no longer stock them. You can still get them online, but DON'T DO IT – don't be like this guy!



- ❖ LED lighting will immediately start saving you a lot of money - up to 90%
- ❖ Lightbulbs are no longer a consumable: LEDs last for up to 20 years. (In 15 years, only one of my LED lights has gone). NB be suspicious of very cheap brands – they may not last as long
- ❖ LED will fit all your existing fittings
- ❖ LED lighting has advanced hugely – now you can get a really wide range of warm shades, and dimmable ones. Increasingly you can even get light-fittings with a switch to change the bulb to cool/warm etc

EFT Electrical (www.eft-electrical.com), an independent specialist in Lewes, sell LED bulbs at decent prices and offer expert advice and demos; down Brooks Lane past Homebase, R at the T-junction, at the end on the L. Homebase Lewes also sell a wide range of LED bulbs.

A minefield? Choosing LED bulbs

Don't worry.

- ❖ Find bulbs that fit your fitting (bayonet, screw, GU10 downlighters etc)
Then look at two things on the label:
- ❖ **K values:** these are the colour/tone of the light. Warm is K2700-3000, cool is around K4000
- ❖ **Lumens:** this is brightness. Very roughly, the old incandescent 40-watt bulb gave out c.400 lumens, 60w c.750 lumens, 100w c.1300 lumens

The light that you get is a mixture of the two. That's it!

Integrated LED fittings

These are a very mixed blessing. You'll increasingly come across LED lighting which doesn't use bulbs: the LED element is integrated within the whole light. This makes for an elegant light, but beware. You'll get a guarantee (important to register your purchase with the supplier), and the lights should last for say 15-20 years; but if they don't, will the manufacturer then still have that light? If not, you'll just have to dispose of the whole thing and start again. Beware.