

Updating light fixtures and ceiling fans can dramatically change the way your home looks without the high cost of remodeling. In fact, improving your lighting and ceiling fans is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bills. By utilizing new lighting technologies, you can reduce your energy use in some cases by 75%.

The use of energy efficient compact fluorescent (CFLs) and/or LED lamps throughout your home is a much more efficient alternative to incandescent (standard) bulbs. CFL's and LED lamps last anywhere from 4 to 10 times longer than a standard incandescent bulb. Although CFL's and LED bulbs cost a bit more than standard incandescent bulbs, they pay for themselves by saving energy over their lifetime.



- ◆ In some applications, you may consider installing timers, photo cells, occupancy sensors, or motion sensors to reduce the amount of time your lights are on.
- ◆ Look for ENERGY STAR products when purchasing light bulbs and/or light fixtures.



LED light fixtures and light bulbs are the most energy efficient products in the market today. They do not consist of any transformers and last up to 50,000 hours. They are excellent in cold climate applications and are mercury and lead free.

Use the following guidelines to help you select a light fixture that best suits the room you are updating.

◆ **Foyer**

In order to determine the proper fixture width: Add the length and width dimensions (in feet) of the area together. This number is the proper width (in inches) for the fixture you will need. To determine the proper fixture height: The bottom of the surface mount or semi surface mount ceiling fixture should be at least 7 feet from the ground. If you have a tall (cathedral) ceiling, you may use a 2 or 3 tier chandelier. If there is a window above the front door, center the chandelier so it can be seen from outside.

◆ **Hall**

Depending on the ceiling height, surface-mounted, semi-surface light fixtures or chandeliers can be used. There should be a distance between 8 to 10 feet between these fixtures. The bottom of each light fixture should be 7 feet from the floor. For added lighting, if you have a very long hallway, you may want to install some wall sconces. These should be hung 5 feet from the floor and spaced 6 – 8 feet apart.

◆ **Dining Room**

Dining room chandeliers should be no wider than 12 inches less than the width of the dining room table. The bottom of the chandelier should be no lower than 30 inches above the tabletop, for an 8-foot ceiling. For each additional foot above 8-foot ceilings, raise the fixture 3 inches higher.

◆ **Kitchen**

Depending on your kitchen layout, you may use a chandelier, surface-mount or semi-surface mounted fixture. The bottom of the light fixture should be at least 7 feet from the floor. For kitchen islands, use decorative small pendant light fixtures. The bottom of the pendant light fixture should be no lower than 30 inches above the counter top. To light a dinette or breakfast area (since this is generally a smaller eating area), use a decorative single-light pendant or a smaller chandelier. The bottom of



the light fixture should be no lower than 30 inches above the tabletop.



◆ **Baths**

Baths require plenty of even shadow-free lighting. Bath-bar light fixtures should be mounted 78 inches from the floor and centered over the mirrors. For double-bowl bathrooms, use a fixture that is almost as wide as the mirror or two smaller fixtures centered above each bowl. For larger bathrooms, besides vanity/mirror lighting, you may require an additional surface-mounted, semi-surface mounted fixture, and/or wall sconces on each side of the mirrors.

◆ **Outdoors**

Always keep pathways well lit with lanterns mounted every 8-10 feet for safety. Use a single wall lantern on entrances throughout the home. You can add outdoor post lantern lights near driveways for walkways for added illumination and security as well as landscape lighting for a decorative touch.