Switching to LED Bulbs

midland heart

QUICK FACTS

- Lower your carbon footprint
- Reduce your lighting bills

You can save **£2-3 per year** for every traditional halogen bulb you switch to a LED bulb

In the UK, lighting makes up **15%** of a typical household's electricity bill

By replacing all the bulbs in your home with LED lights, you could save £30 a year on your electricity bills.

How do I choose the right light bulbs?

When it's time to replace your bulbs, there are two main types: compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light emitting diodes (LEDs).

LEDs are now the most common light fitting, and you can use them to replace dimmable lights and spotlights. LEDs are also more energy-efficient than CFLs.

If you replace all the bulbs in your home with LED lights, you could reduce your carbon dioxide emissions by up to 40kg a year. This is same amount of carbon dioxide emitted when you drive your car around 140 miles.

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Select the right lumen value

If you've ever bought energy efficient lighting and found it wasn't bright enough you might have picked a bulb with too small a lumen value.

We used to use watts to give the brightness of a bulb but energy-efficient bulbs use fewer watts, so it is best to look at how much light they give out.

This table compares watts and their new approximate equivalent lumen values for LEDs / CFLs.

Traditional bulb	LED / CFL bulb
15 watt	140 lumen
25 watt	250 lumen
40 watt	470 lumen
60 watt	800 lumen
75 watt	1,050 lumen
100 watt	1,520 lumen

Select the right colour

'Soft white' or 'warm white' bulbs give a cosy glow that is best for general household lighting, while 'cool white' or 'pure white' are ideal for areas that need to be brightly lit.

The colour rendering index (CRI) of a bulb is a measurement of how well a bulb compares to natural sunlight. A higher CRI will show colours closer to how they look in sunlight. A bulb's packaging will indicate the CRI alongside the lumen value. A CRI of 80 or more works well for most household tasks.

Top tips for reducing your lighting bill

- Turn lights off when you leave the room.
- Be aware of how many lights you have on in one room. Do you need the main light and the lamp on?
- Use sensors or timers on external lights so that they're only on when needed.
- Consider switching to light coloured lamp shades or fittings so that the lampshade doesn't absorb the light from the bulb.
- Regularly clean any shades or light fittings to increase the light.