

Bulb label cheat sheet

What the numbers on the box mean.

Lumens = brightness.

Watts are power, not brightness.

40 W old bulb = 450 lumens | 60 W = 800 | 75 W = 1,100 | 100 W = 1,600

Kelvin = light color.

Lower is warmer.

2,700 K warm | 3,000 K soft | 3,500 K neutral | 4,100 K cool

Names like "soft white" vary by brand. Trust the number.

CRI = color accuracy, up to 100.

80: ENERGY STAR minimum. 90+: art, crafts, photos.

Lighting Facts label: brightness, yearly energy cost, life, light appearance, watts.

Also check: base type matches the lamp; at or below the lamp's max wattage; "dimmable" if you use a dimmer.

Sources: ENERGY STAR; U.S. DOE; FTC.