

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:**

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

* 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 – (www.eft-electrical.com); down Brooks Lane past Homebase, R at the T-junction, at the end on the L Homebase also sell a wide range of LED bulbs, with some good offers</p>	<p> www.homewatt.co.uk * http://brightonledlighting.com www.ledcentre.uk.com * www.energylightbulbs.co.uk www.ledhut.co.uk * www.ledbulbs.co.uk www.lustrumlight.co.uk ** www.megamanuk.com ** * I've used these www.simplyled.co.uk ** ** 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.