

## 8 Home & Small Office Lighting Tips

- General lighting is the lighting you turn on just to see your way around the room. It serves no other purpose than this.
- Task lighting, the lighting used when performing a specific task, is one of the most important lighting sources in a room, especially in work areas such as offices, desks, computer workstations, and worktables. Place lamps and lighting in all work areas along with adequate wattage. Make sure the bulbs are covered so lighting is directed to the work surface and not into the eyes.
- Accent lighting is another often-overlooked lighting source. Every room, even kitchens, powder rooms, and bathrooms need accent lighting. Accent lighting are the uplights, spotlights, small lamps, art lamps, and other light sources used to highlight and accent art, collections, tabletops, cabinets, counters, or any area of your home in shadow. Just one room may have one or a dozen or more accent lamps.
- Try to have a minimum of three lighting sources in every room excluding the overhead light. Triangulate these three sources, causing at least one of them to be behind you.
- In many of the new homes and lobby areas built today, large brass chandeliers with bare bulbs are standard. If this lamp is too harsh for you, try softening the look by purchasing individual lampshades (about \$3.00-\$5.00 each at home improvement and discount stores). They clip on to the light bulb and shade the light from being cast around the room, reflecting it down to the table instead. They come in a variety of colors, fabrics, and papers, and can even be painted with acrylic or fabric paints for a custom look.
- One of the most dramatic ways to change or update the look of a lamp is to change the lampshade. Take the lamp with you to a lighting specialty store and try a different shape or color of shade. You can also accessorize your shade by adding a finial to the top or your own touch of artistry – fringe, crystals, stencils, cut-work, beads, hand-painted designs, etc.
- If a lamp is too short or too small for a given location, raise it. Use a pedestal, a stack of books, a box or chest, anything stable that can give it height.
- Don't overlook those flea market finds. That 1960's gaudy, uglier-than-sin, enameled lamp can be taken apart and turned into a stunning (and expensive in the antique shops) flower vase. Think outside the box.

- Joyce Russell Hadley, president, EGG Commercial Building Habitats