choose brightness

Most bulbs list a lumen output and a "wattage equivalent" which approximates similarity to outdated incandescent bulbs. A 60w Equivalent LED should have around 800 lumens; adjust for more or less as needed.



choose color temperature

Homes with crisp whites, blues, and cool grey look better under 3000-3500K. Homes with warm whites, tans, and creams look better under 2700-3000K.

2700K	3000K	3500K		4000K	5000K
warm colors natural woods		cool colors grey stones		midday daylight	

check the facts

Check the Lighting Facts label on the packaging and use these basic metrics for a 60w Equivalent A19 bulb. Other wattages may be more expensive.



think like a designer

Look closely for additional labels and at the construction of the bulb itself, which may push light in the wrong direction. Not all bulbs will carry these labels, so look for those that do.



test the solution

Finally, buy a bulb, take it home, and install it. Your eyes are the ultimate sensor: does it look bright enough? Do the colors of the home look good? Does it hum? If it does not meet your expectations, take it back to the store and try again.