

Renovation lighting

One of the biggest decisions you will make, when designing a renovation project in your home or business, is what kind of lighting to use. Incandescent, HID, LED, task lighting, flood lights, under cabinet lighting, accent lighting and the old stand-by, fluorescent lighting. Regardless what type of light fixture you choose for the appropriate result, LED bulbs seem to be the best choice because of their low energy consumption, longevity and the fact that the bulbs have been designed for almost any application. LED lights come in all shapes and sizes from standard screw in lamps (A-19), to fluorescent tubes even 400 watt equivalent for outside use.

One lighting choice recommend by most interior designers for residential applications are pot lights. Pot lights come in 2 different styles, renovator style for exiting drywalled ceilings, or new construction style, which are installed before the drywall. If you installing pot lights in an insulated attic area prior to drywall, most inspectors now requirer vapour barriers be installed.

Pot lights also come in different sizes from 3" to 6" with a variety of trims to finish off the desired look and function of the light. Pot lights also come in 2 classifications, IC rated and NON-IC rated. IC means "insulation contact". When you install new renovator style pot lights in an existing dry wall ceiling, use IC rated. This means that you can install the pot lights directly up against pink or blown in insulation or flammable structures without concern of overheating cause by the bulb. LED lamps do not produce intense heat like Halogen bulbs do but you must always go by the rating of the fixture, not the size of type of bulb your installing in the pot light.



Another option are LED light discs. Light disc are thin circular discs with LED lamps inside. Light discs can be purchased as a retro fit style, installed inside an existing pot light. These are purchased based on the size of the pot light and fit inside using springs and clips to secure them. Light intensity is also higher as the size goes up.

Another type of light disc are mounted without the need for pot lights. You drill a specifically sized hole in the ceiling drywall and the LED discs have spring holders that attach onto drywall.