



The **incandescent** light bulb or incandescent lamp is a source of electric light that works by incandescence. An electrical current passes through a thin filament, heating it until it produces light. The enclosing glass bulb prevents the oxygen in the air from reaching the hot filament. (Which otherwise would be destroyed rapidly by oxidation). Incandescent bulbs are also sometimes called electric lamps, a term also applied to the original arc lamps.

Incandescent bulbs are made in a wide range of sizes and voltages. The most common in the UK are 230V/240V. They require no external regulating equipment and have a low manufacturing cost, and work well on either alternating current or direct current. As a result the incandescent lamp has been widely used in household and commercial lighting in a wide variety of applications such as pendant and wall lights.

Due to their poor efficiency incandescent light bulbs are gradually being phased out and replaced in many applications by compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), high-intensity discharge lamps (HQL), light-emitting diodes (LEDs), and other devices, which give more visible light for the same amount of electrical energy input. The UK is in the process of banning the use of incandescent light bulbs in favour of more energy-efficient lighting.

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