

## **SUITABLY L.E.D.**

Most of us have become used to the low energy light bulbs which have been available for some years. Bulbs which take a little while to “warm up” and then don’t give that good a light. Well, now there is a better alternative – LED light bulbs.

LEDs – or Light Emitting Diodes – have come a long way in the 40+ years I have known them. From a small, red, panel indicator they now command centre stage in a range of applications. The huge video screens you see on X Factor? LEDs. A lot of the fancy lighting you see on TV? LEDs.

Now you can benefit from this technology at home. LED replacement lamps come in all shapes and sizes. A 5.5 watt “normal bulb” would give the light of a 60 watt bulb. It will cost more to buy, but will pay for itself in less than 2 years and should last for more than 20 years. You could look at savings of £150 over the life of each lamp. Similarly you can replace a 50 watt “down lighter” spotlight with a 3 or 4 watt LED. And of course you would be helping save the environment whilst you save money,

A word of warning though – I have tried many LED lamps over the last couple of years and decided that you definitely get what you pay for. Cheap Chinese imports look attractively priced, but will not last the course. It is worth spending the money on good quality lamps from Phillips, Toshiba and other well known makes from reputable dealers.

Also, most people prefer the “warm white” colour to the “cool white”, which tends to look rather blue.

I have about 40 different LEDs at home now, and as they consume so little power, I get less stresses when I find them left on! And my power bills are starting to fall – a win-win situation!

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