

LIGHTING TERMS

1. **Absorbed light:** Light that is drawn in by a surface. Rough textures and dark colors absorb most of the available light rays. If a light is absorbed, it cannot be reflected.
2. **Footcandles:** The amount of light a standing candle gives at a distance of one foot. Used as a standard measurement for determining how much light is needed in a given area. Example--approximately 70 footcandles of light is necessary for a reading area. A lamp in the correct position with a 200 watt bulb can give this amount of light.
3. **Halogen light:** Another form of incandescent lighting. A gas from the halogen family and tungsten molecules are combined to activate a filament. The special quartz bulb lights up instantly when the electric current is turned on. Halogen lights give off a better quality of light than regular incandescent lights. They last up to three times as long as regular bulbs, but they are not as energy efficient.
4. **Underwriters' Laboratories (UL):** A seal on a lighting fixtures assuring that the fixtures were made according to safety guidelines.
5. **Accent lighting:** Lighting used to highlight art objects and paintings or to emphasize wall areas—creates dramatic effects and focuses attention on interesting areas or objects.
6. **Architectural lighting:** Lighting built into the architecture of the room as indicated on the blueprint.
7. **Artificial Lighting:** Lighting produced by man—includes incandescent and fluorescent lighting.
8. **Contrast:** Difference between light and dark.
9. **Cool lighting:** Lighting such as fluorescent which gives off a bluish cast and reduces the intensity of warm colors in the room.
10. **Diffusion:** Spreading out of light to avoid glare.
11. **Direct lighting:** Lighting that goes directly from the source to the object to be illuminated.
12. **Filament:** A slender, threadlike object that is heated until it glows to produce light within an incandescent light bulb.
13. **Fluorescent:** A tube filled with mercury vapor that when heated produces light.

14. **General lighting:** Lighting that illuminates an entire room, creates the overall lighting mood, and meets usual lighting needs.
15. **Glare:** Occurs when a high level of brightness on an object is insufficiently shielded.
16. **Incandescent lighting:** Lighting from a sealed bulb in which a tungsten filament is heated until it glows.
17. **Indirect lighting:** Lighting that travels from an invisible point source to a reflective surface before becoming visible.
18. **Intensity:** The degree or amount of light.
19. **Natural lighting:** Lighting produced by the sun.
20. **Non architectural Lighting:** Ceiling and wall fixtures and portable lamps that may be added after a structure is built.
21. **Perimeter lighting:** Lighting that follows the outline of the room.
22. **Portable lighting:** Lighting that is easily moved.
23. **Reflection:** The return of light from surfaces.
24. **Structural lighting:** Lighting that is built in or becomes part of the architecture.
25. **Task lighting:** Additional illumination for specific activities.