What the Package Can Tell You…

What type of light source will the dimmer dim?

- Specific types of dimmers are made for incandescent bulbs, compact fluorescent bulbs, and light emitting diodes.

How much longer will the bulb last if dimmed?

- Average lifespan (in hours) increases for most bulbs when dimmed, but actual length varies.

All of these things can tell you how much the lighting really costs!

Choose the dimmer that is right for you!

- People with a limited range of hand motion need a dimmer that works without grasping or twisting.
- Any dimmer can change the mood of a room and save energy when used the right way.

Typical Dimmer Styles

Conventional Manual Wall-Box

- Rotary
- Sliding
- Toggle

Programmable/Automated

Portable

SOURCES:


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**Important Information:** Dimming reduces the amount of light produced and energy consumed.

### Purchasing
- To make certain that you are purchasing a quality product, choose products with the Energy Star® logo.
- Be sure to purchase bulbs and dimmers from a reputable manufacturer. Some dimmers may hum, buzz, or cause interference. This is less likely with dimmers manufactured by reputable companies.
- Portable (plug-in) dimming devices have no installation cost. For example, a table lamp may be plugged into a portable dimmer device.
- Dimmers for some light sources may need a special device called a driver.
- Some dimmers may require you to push the dimmer or slide it to the lowest position to turn it off completely.
- Remember! Dimming technology continues to develop. Dimmers are upgraded, just like computers and phones.
- See our fact sheet about Safe & Sustainable Lighting for more information on choosing the right bulb.

### When Thinking of Dimming Effects, **Consider**…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color of Light:</th>
<th>Incandescents</th>
<th>CFLs</th>
<th>LEDs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Becomes warmer, yellow to more orange to more red</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not as much change as when dimming incandescents</td>
<td>May become more blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimming Range:</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5-20%</td>
<td>10% to 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very smooth transition.</td>
<td>Exact range varies.</td>
<td>Dimmed LEDs do not flicker.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### When Thinking of Dimming Costs, **Consider**…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ease of Install:</th>
<th>Incandescents</th>
<th>CFLs</th>
<th>LEDs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very easy</td>
<td>Varies; Easy to more difficult</td>
<td>Varies; Potentially high</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inexpensive...</td>
<td>Expensive...</td>
<td>Varies; Potentially high</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It could be as easy as replacing a switch with an incandescent dimmer</td>
<td>Must use a dimmable bulb, ballast, and special dimmer</td>
<td>1 to 1.66 times more than non-dimmed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 to 4 times more than non-dimmed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Cost:</td>
<td>Inexpensive...</td>
<td>Expensive...</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Savings:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potentially high</td>
<td>Must use a compatible bulb (diode cluster), driver, and may need a special dimmer</td>
<td>Potentially very high</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulb Life:</td>
<td>2 to 4 times more than non-dimmed</td>
<td>1 to 1.66 times more than non-dimmed</td>
<td>Potentially longer than non-dimmed; LED technology is changing rapidly.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Caution:** Read all bulb, dimmer, ballast, and driver packages very carefully. Some CFLs and LEDs are not made for dimming.

**Before You Buy:** Some manufacturers publish lists of compatible components. Consult with an electrician, who can advise you about planning and can provide dimmer installation, comply with electrical codes in your area, and make certain that your lighting system is compatible and safe.