

which thin the ozone layer around the earth.

Fluorescent lamps have no filament; they are just a tube with gases in it. Best known as the long white tubes so beloved in utility ceilings of the 1960's and 70's, recent technology has reduced the size and improved the efficiency. Many different shapes and power options are now available.



These lamps are ideal for lights that need to be kept on for a long time i.e. overnight on landings or in hallways. In the past it was felt that fluorescent light was 'cold' but with the invention of 'warm white' lamps this is no longer the case.

Incandescent light sources

(conventional filament bulbs)

These are the conventional bulbs which we all recognise and their chief advantage is the colour of light they emit. Colours of objects are generally more accurate



with this type of light bulb and they impart a warm feeling to a room.

The disadvantage is that they are inefficient by modern standards and have a relatively short life (around 1000 hours).

Incandescent lamps come in a variety of shapes and sizes and have a number of different fittings: Bayonet cap (BC), Small Bayonet cap (SBC), Edison screw (ES or E27) and Small Edison Screw (SES or E14). The Edison screw types are becoming more popular in the UK.

Several different coatings are also available with the following properties:

Pearl is an all over frosting which diffuses the light and is best used in a light fitting with shades.

Clear bulbs are more attractive when used in fittings where the bulb is visible or a sparkle is required such as crystal chandeliers.

Reflector bulbs have a silvered surface to direct the light in a certain direction and are usually intended for directional fittings such as spot lights.