

## Lighting can ...

- Create a cohesive “warm” or “cool” look in your home
- Make skin tones look more natural
- Help you closely match colors (for dressing, sewing, arts and crafts, or laundry)
- Enhance colors in your home

Consider how the color rendering index and the color temperature affect your home.

## Color Rendering Index (CRI)

Specific types of light sources create different effects on colored objects in your home.

## Color Temperature

Specific types of light sources create different cool and warm atmospheres in your home.



**WANT MORE INFORMATION?  
PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE:**



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# Light & Color

CHOOSING LIGHTING WITH  
COLOR IN MIND IS AN  
IMPORTANT DECISION.



*you*  
can make

appropriate lighting choices  
that consider light and color  
in your home!

## Important Information

### Color Rendering Index:

Describes the way light makes colored objects look.



- For example, incandescent (97-100 CRI) has an excellent color rendering index!

### Color Temperature:

Describes the way the light source appears.



- For example, the color temperature of incandescent light is warm, about 2700 degrees kelvin. Other sources are cooler. Some fluorescent lights are about 4000 degrees kelvin.

### Purchasing:

- Carefully read the package before you purchase the bulb. The package will tell you the color rendering index and color temperature.
- Be sure to purchase light bulbs from a reputable manufacturer.
- **Spending a little extra time at the store can save you aggravation when you get home!**

## When Thinking of Light and Color, *Consider...*

### Appearance:

- Different light sources may affect colors. For example, the same color might look different when viewed under incandescent and compact fluorescent lights.

### Color Critical Areas:

- Lighting affects color. Color critical areas include dining rooms, family rooms, bathrooms, closets, bedrooms, laundry rooms, craft and hobby areas, and places where art is displayed.

### Initial Cost:

- How much will the light cost when you first buy it?

### Control:

- Dimming might change the color of some lights. For example, dimming incandescent lights makes the light appear more orange.

### Remember:

- Lighting can produce warm or cool atmospheres. For color sensitive activities, such as applying make-up and selecting fabrics, consider warm light.
- The color of daylight varies at different times of the day, across seasons, and in geographic locations.

## Approximate ranges for color rendering index and color temperature *for common home interiors light sources*

	Color Rendering Index	Color Temperature (K)
Compact Fluorescent	70-82	2500-6000
Incandescent	97-100	2500-3000
Light emitting diode	70-90	2700-4200
(Linear) fluorescent	52-90	3000-6500
Tungsten halogen	97-100	2800-3000
Xenon	95	2800-6000