

# TABLE LAMPS - For Task, Mood and Decor

Every home requires an assortment of different lighting: ambient lighting for general illumination, accent lighting for highlighting a particular object, and task lighting to illuminate areas in the home that require direct light. Over the many years that I have been designing spaces for my clients and HGTV's Income Property, I discovered that using table lamps is a cost efficient way to add dramatic visual aesthetic to any interior.

When selecting a table lamp for a room, you need to consider a variety of questions. Is the furnishing heavy, delicate, or a mix? Is the furnishing modern or traditional? Are you looking for a table lamp that complements the decor or adds a decorative element to the space? One of the most jarring combinations is to incorporate the wrong shade on the table lamp – this will not be advantageous to the aesthetic of the room. Consider the scale; nothing looks worse than a small lamp with a huge shade or a large lamp with a tiny one.

Select a shade that matches your lighting needs. Some lampshades are made from thick linen or woven material that diffuse the light, while others are more translucent and allow the most of the light to shine. For maximum output, choose a shade that is lighter in weight, translucent and white in color. In addition, some lamps will cast upward or downward beams to provide either mood or task lighting depending on the shade. One go-to lighting shop that offers a wide variety of lamps and shades is Royal Lighting on Avenue Road in Toronto. A designer tip: bring in your lamp base to let them guide you through selecting the perfect shade.



Also consider making it truly your own. At my firm, I often have added a custom unique shade to a basic lamp, creating a true statement piece for my clients. Remember that you do not necessarily need to use the shade that came with the lamp.



Mix and match lampshades and if necessary add a shade riser or extender to the top of the lamp hardware to raise the height of the shade. A narrow lamp with a small, silk, and boxed-pleat lampshade looks great in the bedroom or on a table. To create an ideal lamp for the living room, add a shade riser, a stretched, oval-shaped shade, and a longer frame.

The bulbs you choose also play a key role in the type of lighting that will be created. Bulbs differ by the amount of light and color



they emit as well as the amount of energy they use. Check the maximum wattage on a table lamp. Wattage indicates how much power a bulb consumes, not the amount of light or lumens it generates. A 40-watt incandescent bulb generates 450 lumens; a 60-watt, 800 lumens; and a 100-watt bulb, 1600 lumens. Energy-efficient bulbs yield higher lumens with lower wattage. Two-bulb table lamps are ideal for areas with

minimal light sources that require plug in lamps to illuminate the space.

In all of my projects, I emphasize that illuminating a space is important; however, the objective of enhancing the room's décor should not be forgotten. Table lamps are elegant objects of décor that create a brighter atmosphere regardless of where they are placed, whether it on a table or bedside.



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Dvira is the Principal of Dvira Interiors, known for her appearances and design work on various HGTV shows.

Dvira and her team use their profound understanding of designs to create stylishly smart spaces.

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