

What's My Wattage?

Use the chart at the bottom of this page to record your answers as you follow these steps:

1. Put a 60-watt incandescent lightbulb in the lamp and turn it on. Wait for one minute. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the brightest, how much light is produced by this bulb?
2. Hold a thermometer 6 inches above the bulb for one minute. Record the temperature. Then turn off the lamp.
3. After the bulb has cooled, remove it from the lamp and insert a 14-watt compact fluorescent lightbulb. Turn the lamp on and wait for one minute. On the same scale of 1 to 10, how much light is produced by this bulb?
4. Repeat step 2.
5. After the bulb has cooled, remove it from the lamp and insert a 100-watt lightbulb. Turn the lamp on and wait for one minute. On the same scale of 1 to 10, how much light is produced by this bulb?
6. Repeat the steps using other bulbs.

Now answer these questions:

Which bulb produced more heat?

Is the hottest bulb also the brightest bulb?

Which bulb is most energy-efficient, and why?

How does it feel to now have this expert knowledge about lightbulbs?

How can you use your knowledge?

Type of Lightbulb	Temperature	Brightness
60-watt incandescent		
14-watt compact fluorescent		
100-watt incandescent		
27-watt compact fluorescent		