

A GUIDE TO LAMP HOLDERS



When designing lighting equipment, the selection of the proper lamp holder, also called light bulb holders or light bulb sockets is a critical step in the process. The selection of the bulb will depend on many variables such as size, lumens, energy efficiency, bulb life, etc. Once the bulb has been selected, a review of lamp holder parameters can begin. Since the bulbs can vary in design (e.g., Edison screw vs. bayonet base) and size, it is important to understand what types are suitable for use with a given lamp holder to ensure you choose the right one for your lighting system.

TYPES OF LAMP HOLDERS

In the following guide, we cover some of the common types of lamp sockets to help industry professionals know what to look for when designing a new fixture or purchasing a replacement lamp holder.

HALOGEN LAMP HOLDERS

- Typically a variation of incandescent bulbs.
- Relies on the heating of a tungsten filament to produce light.
- Greater brightness & longer service life.
- Hotter operating temperatures.



METAL HALIDE LAMP HOLDERS

- High-intensity discharge (HID) lamps that offer efficiency ratings that are up to 2 to 5 times greater than that of incandescent lamps.
- The intensity of the light produced necessitates the use of durable materials for the construction.
- Normally used as illumination of outdoor environments such as streets, parking lots, and sports arenas.



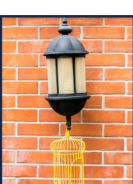
MEDIUM-BASE LAMP HOLDERS

- Medium-base lamp holders accommodate a variety of screw-base bulb types.
- Screw-base bulbs also vary in regard to the bulb shape.
- Some of the most common include A-shaped, globe-shaped, PAR, and bulged reflector.
- Used for general commercial and residential lighting applications.



MOGUL-BASE LAMP HOLDERS

- Mogul-base lamp holders have a much larger screw-base size than medium-base lamps.
- Made from sturdy cast porcelain to accommodate the higher operating temperatures.
- Any bulb that includes "U" in the product description requires a mogul base.
- Adapter allows the mogul base to accommodate smaller bulbs.



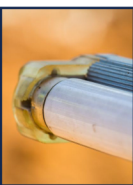
FLUORESCENT LAMP HOLDERS

- Low cost, high energy efficiency bulbs.
- Many styles of bulbs/sockets.
- Used in retail stores, offices, schools.



COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMP HOLDERS

- Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) are a specialized type of fluorescent lamp.
- CFLs require a ballast to work.
- Integrated CFLs rely on an internally integrated ballast and are cheaper & simpler to use.
- Non-integrated CFLs employ a ballast integrated into the lamp holder and are longer-lasting & easier to replace.



BAYONET-BASE LAMP HOLDERS

- These bulbs feature two pins to facilitate twisting and locking the bulb into place.
- Sturdy, rugged, originally developed for vehicle applications.
- They are either single or double contact to match single bulb base or double bulb base.
- There are also miniature bayonet bulbs and sockets.



WEDGE-BASE LAMP HOLDERS

- Wedge-base lamp holders are generally used for smaller low wattage light bulbs.
- This design enables users to replace bulbs quickly and easily.
- They are available with many mounting options like brackets, PCB tabs, snap-in and twist-in.
- There is also a subminiature version.



LAMP HOLDER ADAPTORS & REDUCERS

- When converting a fixture from one lamp holder base to another the simplest way is to use an adaptor.
- These devices allow larger bulbs to fit into smaller bases and/or different base types to fit into different sockets.
- Energy saving is one of the major reasons that adaptors are used.
- Adaptors make these changes simple and inexpensive.



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