



DESIGN TIPS & TECHNIQUES

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By Sheila Doris

Hello everyone again,
Summer is in full swing. Hope you are enjoying the sunshine.

There is quite a buzz right now about energy use and lighting ..I love to conserve but I hate the colour of most fluorescent bulbs. How to solve that dilemma? The answer & some lighting tips/ideas for you.

Tip #1 Ask for **Warm White Deluxe** bulbs- when using tube fluorescents. They may be a special order, and you may be questioned about this choice (They are not often used in home lighting) but in any food prep / eating area they are what you want...they are used in meat display counters in stores to make food look more appealing ... so why not at home too ??? The colour is a little pink, if compared to warm white, but when there is no other fluorescent to compare to, you will see a nice **warm white**.

Tip#2 Low voltage halogen fixtures **save energy** and have a whiter light than other bulbs with much better colour rendition.

People ask Which fixtures are most energy efficient -low or regular voltage with dimmers ??

Low voltage fixtures have transformers to reduce the voltage used -without factoring in a dimmer they **save energy**.....dimmers also reduce the voltage . A dimmer on a regular fixture makes it **draw less power**. Dimmers can also be used with low voltage fixtures. When a dimmer is added less power is used in both cases. However there is more to it....

When a dimmer is used the **brightness** of the light bulb dimmed is important ! Low voltage bulbs burn brighter using power more efficiently ... with brighter light a lower wattage bulb can be used ... ie a 35 watt bulb that performs similar to a 50 watt bulb saves energy.

Low voltage bulbs produce much **less heat** than (regular) line voltage bulbs- so less heat is released into the space .. in the summer this is a definite advantage - it also helps the bulbs last longer.

I suggest low voltage fixtures on dimmers for energy conservation and the best light.

Tip#3 Choose **floods** when buying halogen bulbs as halogen is a much brighter but narrower beam than regular light bulbs.

Tip#4 Choose pot lights with the **mirror-like** reflectors in them -these increase the light output of the bulb making the fixtures more effective.

Tip #5 Want to control a switch from two locations & don't want a mess re-wiring it ?? I know how ! the **Anywhere Switch**. Using the same principle as a wireless doorbell- the switches control each other by using radio frequency. It is as simple as changing the box on the switch you already have, and mounting the second switch wherever you like! I think it is a fantastic idea!



I hope that you can put the lighting ideas to good use
If you have questions please email me at sidesign@rogers.com.

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Thanks for reading.....Sheila

