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Light fixtures are one of the best decorating decisions you can make for your home. Lighting goes a long way from setting the tone and atmosphere to visually aiding a home.

At what stage should you select the lighting for your new home? The earlier a homeowner brings in their plans, the better. As you consider lighting it helps make other decisions such as hardware and faucet finishes, furniture arrangement and room colors. Most homeowners try to have their lights ordered around the time light locations are confirmed at the walk through with the electrician.

How can I be more energy efficient when it comes to my lighting options? Balancing energy considerations with the quality and style of the light can be done. Compact fluorescent and LED light sources are good energy savers. Dimmers are also very much an energy saving alternative and can add significantly to a bulb's life.

How much can I plan on spending for my decorative lighting in my new home? The American Lighting Association states that the decorative lighting will generally run from one to three percent of the total cost of the home. That means on a typical \$350,000 home you could expect to invest approximately \$3,500 to \$10,500 on decorative lighting. The final cost depends on personal preferences, the lights and fans chosen.

Other than the style, what separates one ceiling fan from another? There are many beautiful and unique options for ceiling fans today that not only look good, but also have great performance. The higher the blade pitch, the larger and better motor will be required to draw the blades through the air. Also check out the quality of the finishes, blades and controls available to adjust the fan speed, light level and direction of the fan.

Industry Trends

At Bright Ideas, they continue to see many diverse tastes, but the demand for casual, warm tones with clean lines has been a strong trend in lighting. Brushed nickel continues to be popular, but bronze seems to be the most popular finish today. There are dozens of bronze choices to select from now as well.

Another trend is the use of mini chandeliers over kitchen islands and dining areas. You can consider hanging two smaller lights evenly spaced rather than one larger fixture in the center.

Some new homes, in an effort to be more energy efficient, are being designed with shorter ceilings in the foyer with wider wall spacing. To accommodate these spaces, there are shorter but wider foyer semi flush fixtures.

Wall sconces and mini pendants continue to be very popular and come in many sizes and styles.

The ability to find a style of light fixture to go with the overall décor or plan a room or home around has never been greater.