



A Guide to Pendant Lighting Techniques

A wonderful way to bring sophistication to a room is by having a beautiful suspended illumination in the form of a pendant light or ceiling pendant light. Not every room will be able to carry this look as there are considerations, mainly the height of the ceiling and the type of traffic you expect under the pendant lighting fixture.

Homes with high ceilings throughout will have ample clearing space for even long pendant lamps, but in those homes with standard wall/ceiling heights you can still achieve that desired look by suspending the pendant light with an appropriate length cable or chain. Not only does the depth of a modern pendant light need to be considered but also the spread of the lamps to avoid a bumping hazard. A good rule of thumb for working out the range of dimensions best suited to the pendant lighting fixture you require in a dining area is to choose a light that has a diameter no greater than half the table width over which it will be suspended.

In large areas like foyers, lobbies and hallways the ideal size will be determined by the length and the width of the area. If for example a hallway was 10 foot long and 4 feet wide, one (centred) pendant light would suffice but it's diameter couldn't be broader than 2 feet [2'6"max] to allow space either side on the short width measurement.



A longer run could accept another light or two and when hung in groups, pendant light fittings do look spectacular, perhaps even more so than chandelier fittings. Make sure there is enough space between grouped lights both for safety and appearance. Too many pendant lights, too close together would look cluttered and spoil the effect you are trying to create. If you require maximum illumination consider pendant lights with higher voltage bulbs to offer the maximum lux rating appropriate to the function and of course the allowances of the circuit ring to which they are fitted.

Pendant lighting is particularly suitable for narrow spaces that require task illumination and there are many narrow pendant lights that would be ideal for illuminating island areas or breakfast bars in kitchens. Elegant ceiling pendant lights are easy to install and only require one hole in the ceiling, something that makes them quick to fit and simple to decorate around. In contemporary settings, modern pendant lights can be minimalistic or quite ornate with decorative crystals and beads or coils that can add interest if a trio is suspended with different evenly spaced lengths.



Striking but simple, a red pendant light in a room with natural décor and an otherwise neutral palette can add drama and focus, which could readily be changed if you decided to alter the theme. You might swap a red pendant light for a black, metallic finish or a clear glass pendant light. The shapes of the lamps can vary from the simplest cylinder to an ornamented globe with textured detail.

Pendant lights can be as grand or as subdued as you desire. However, they will create impact. Even clear glass or acrylic, apparently colourless, with a white light bulb and suspended from a wire that can hardly be seen will wow your admirers especially if part of a series of ceiling pendant lights running down the side of a room or the centre of a hallway.

