PHILLIPS

QWIK TECH TIPS

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In the Dark about How to Find the Right Dome Lamp?

There are a variety of dome lamps to select from on the market today with similar yet distinct features to meet the driver's needs. They can range from a very basic cost-effective florescent light that offers some type of visibility (versus nothing at all), to an LED light that is boasted as the best and brightest with all the "bells and whistles". It all depends on what light you are looking at. But the one focus, no matter how basic or all-inclusive a dome lamp's features are, is making sure you get the brightest lamp within your set budget. So how do you make sure you are getting the best light out there for your investment?

LUMEN OUTPUT

Many will look at the lumen output, which gives a pretty good indication of how bright a light will be. A lumen is a measure of the total quantity of visible light emitted by one source. In this case, it's the total amount of light emitted, collectively, from all the LEDs (or bulb/bulbs) in one dome lamp. The higher the lumens, the brighter the light should be. For example, a light with 2200 lumens would be considered brighter than a light with 1200 lumens. However, lumen output isn't the only factor to consider when selecting a dome lamp.

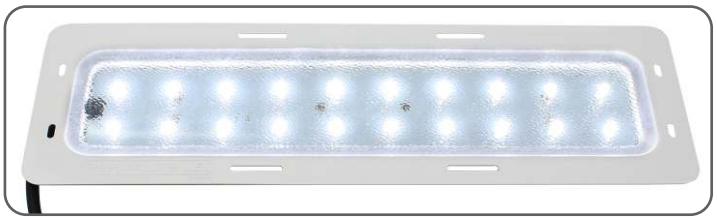
AMPERAGE DRAW

If two lights with the same lumen output were being compared, how would you know which light is better? This is where amperage (or current) draw should be considered, especially when installing lamps in a reefer unit when the light is powered by the reefer battery. Reefer batteries are smaller and have less reserve capacity to power the lights versus typical tractor batteries. So every bit of power that can be conserved is a plus. As an example, if we are looking at two lamps, both with the same lumen output, but lamp (A) draws 1.5 amps and lamp (B) draws 2 amps, you could use four of lamp (A) versus only 3 of lamp (B) for the same amount of amperage draw (6 amps). This means that if you had to pick between the two lights, lamp (A) would be the better option, either allowing you the choice to conserve energy by using just three lamps, or increase the brightness inside the trailer by an average of 25% with an additional dome lamp (4 total).

LIGHT SPREAD/LIGHT FOCUS

Another feature to consider is the light spread, or focus of the lamp. The entire purpose of a dome lamp is to be able to see the cargo inside the trailer. If the light pattern coming from the dome lamp isn't directed, or focused in such a way to make what's inside the trailer easily visible, it isn't doing its job. It's like shining a flashlight in the wrong direction. Often times light spread is not always advertised, but if the information is available when making a decision about what type of lamp to buy, it's an important factor to consider.

In summary, a focused light with a higher lumen output, using the least amount of amps, will provide the best lighting source that won't drain the reefer battery.



TIPS

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- A focused light with a higher lumen output, using the least amount of amps, will provide the best lighting source that won't drain the reefer battery.
- Automatic on/off sensors take the headache out of having to turn the lights on and remembering to turn them off.
- Lamps built with anti-corrosion features, such as sealed lenses and additional protection to the wiring in the back help prevent failure and electrical shorts.
- Lamps that generate less heat mean a reefer unit doesn't have to work harder to keep the inside of the trailer cool.
- Low profile lamps are less likely to be damaged by cargo or loading equipment.

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