

LED STRIP LIGHTS

The best strip in town!

LED strip lights are currently all the rage and it is understandable why — they provide an endless source of practical and aesthetically appealing interior and outdoor design possibilities due to their wide range of applications.

LED strip lights are beautiful and practical — they can illuminate virtually any surface or features in and around the home, says Melissa Davidson from The Lighting Warehouse: “LED strip lights are definitely one of the most versatile lighting products on the market today — whether you require back-lighting, ambient or task lighting, or the ability to provide lighting in hard-to-reach places — LED strip lights are the answer.”

She explains that they comprise small LEDs (light emitting diodes) that are embedded into a flexible ribbon or tape. Their unique form offers the end-user a multitude of various benefits, including:

Cost-effective lighting: Since they are virtually made up of ribbons of imbedded LEDs, LED strip lights provide a very cost-effective source of illumination, says Davidson: “LED strip lights are estimated to use approximately 20% of the energy of the traditional incandescent linear strip light, which translates into an energy saving of up to 80%.”



A greener option: Apart from these LED strip lights' impressively low energy consumption, they are also designed to last up to 60 times longer than incandescent strip lights and 10 times longer than fluorescent strip lights, and it is this lengthy lifecycle that helps boost the products' already low carbon footprint. Furthermore, Davidson notes that unlike other traditional strip lights, LED strip lights do not contain lead or mercury and most of the components of LED strip lights are also recyclable - making them a truly green product.

Low heat output: Unlike incandescent strip lights, LED strip lights have no filament that will burn out. They also burn at a much lower temperature says Davidson: “Unlike their incandescent counterparts, which generate a lot of heat, LED strip lights don't get especially hot.”

Easy installation: Due to their self-adhesive backing, LED strip lights are incredibly easy to install as it can stick to virtually any smooth non-conductive surface. Make sure the area in question is clean and dry, then simply peel away the backing adhesive and mount in place. Some LED strip lighting kits also come with some clips for extra reinforcement.



Flexibility: Led strip lights are very thin and narrow, creating low profile solutions that are flexible enough to withstand low levels of bending and curving. "This quality makes them an ideal solution for curved or corner applications, or to illuminate narrow areas where there is little space for traditional lighting, such as on balustrades, bulkheads or stairs for example," explains Davidson. Traditionally, incandescent linear strips or fluorescent strips were used for kitchen applications, but these were rigid and inflexible, making it impossible to use them in all the required areas.

Cut to size: "The LED light strips come in a variety of lengths, however, should you have other specific length requirements, you can place an order at The Lighting Warehouse for your tailor-made request, and we will make these up to order to suit your individual requirements," says Davidson. The fact of the matter is that different lengths of LED strip lights need different size power supplies as they require varying amounts of wattage.

A display of colour: Strip lights are available in either cool white or warm white, or you can choose a fixed colour or even colour-changing LEDs. "Coloured LED strip lights can be used to great effect to create a certain ambience or set a mood in a room. You can create professional colour-changing lighting effects in any room in your home with the LED strip light products that The Lighting Warehouse stocks. Some of their LED strips can be operated via remote control to change between various modes, such as constant colour-changing illumination, or fixed on one chosen colour (white, red, blue, green, purple, pink, and so on)," explains Davidson.

Limitless applications: Davidson says that LED strip lights are most commonly applied in kitchens —above worktops, under cabinets or even in dark cupboards. However, she says that they can be used virtually anywhere in the home — to give your furniture an illuminating lift, shone on walls to create an immediate feature wall, on mouldings, around bathroom mirrors — the applications are virtually limitless!

Dimmable lighting: Special dimmer switches are available, which make these strip lights dimmable - giving you full control of the light intensity generated.

Outdoor applications: "The Lighting Warehouse also have LED strip lights that can be used outdoors — they boast an outdoor rating of IP68, which means that the product is water resistant. You can also buy an IP65 box to cover the power supply if it needs to be installed outdoors," says Davidson. 🏠



LED strip lights comprise small LEDs (light emitting diodes) that are embedded into a flexible ribbon or tape. Their unique form allows them to be used for a multitude of various applications where traditional lighting would be impractical or impossible. LED strip lights are available in two types of white light — cool white which has a crisp, bluish tone, and warm light which boasts a warmer, golden tinge.



Osram Deco Flex LED colour-changing light kits

These strips can be operated via remote control to change between various modes, such as constant colour-changing illumination, or fixed on one chosen colour (white, red, blue, green, purple, pink, and so on). Installation is really simple — the 1m strip can be fixed into place with the integrated adhesive strip. The Deco Flex can also be easily separated by means of connector clips into 3 x 320mm strips. Deco Flex boasts many benefits, including the fact that it fits gracefully around curves and bends, there are a choice of numerous colours, it is energy-efficient and durable, and ready for use in no time at all thanks to the built-in Plug & Play technology. It retails for R599,95.



The LED Flexi Strip Light Box contains a 5m flexi LED light strip and a power supply unit. There are 30 LEDs per every 1m, and every 1m provides 7,2W of light. The 5m coil has self-adhesive tape on the underside for easy application onto dry, clean surfaces. It also contains a packet of clips for extra reinforcement. It boasts an IP68 rating, which makes it suitable for outdoor applications, and is available in either cool or warm white colours. This box retails for R1 199,95.

All prices are as at June 2011 - while stocks last. E and OE.