

Recommended Light Levels

How much light do you need?

Based on your facility, there are recommended light levels. The levels are based on a unit of measure called foot candles (fc) or lumens (lm). This rating quantifies how much light is in an area. The following selected foot-candle ranges represent the Illuminating Engineer Society's (IES) current illumination recommendations. Individual applications will determine exact foot-candle levels. Please refer to the IES Lighting Handbook for more detailed evaluation.

Airplane Manufacturing		Traffic Lanes		Offices (cont'd)	
Drilling, riveting	75	Parking garage	10	General and private	50-100
Screw fastening	75	Service garage	10-20	Lobbies, lounges, reception	0-20
Final assembly, hangar	100	Entrances	50	Mail sorting	50-100
Inspection	50-200	Repair area	50-100	Offset printing, duplicating	20-50
Welding	50	Gymnasiums		Spaces with VDT's	75
Assembly		Assemblies	10	Paint Shop	
Rough easy seeing	20-50	Exercise & recreation	30	Spraying, rubbing	20-50
Rough difficult seeing	50-100	Exhibitions, matches	50	Hand art, stencil	20-50
Medium	100-200	Hospitals		Fine painting & finishing	50-100
Fine	200-500 (a)	Rooms	10-30	Paper Manufacturing	
Extra fine	500-1000 (a)	Corridors	5-30	Beaters, grinding	20-50
Auditoriums		Emergency Rooms	50-100	Finishing, cutting	50-100
Social activities	5-10	Operating Rooms	100-200	Hand counting	50-100
Assembly only	10-20	Hotels		Machine reel, inspection	100-200
Exhibitions	10-20	Bathrooms	20-50	Re-winder	100-200
Automobile Manufacturing		Bedrooms for reading	20-50	Printing	
Final assembly, finishing	200	Stairs	10-20	Photo engraving, blocking	20-50
inspecting	200	Corridors, elevators	10-20	Color inspecting	100-200
Body & chassis assembly	100	Front desk	50-100	Presses	50-100
Body parts manufacturing	100	Sewing	100-200	Proofreading	100-200
Frame assembly	50	General linens	10-20	Composing room	50-100
Banks		Lobby general	10-20	Schools	
Lobby general	10-50	Read/work areas	20-50	Reading, typing	20-100
Writing areas	20-70	Iron & Steel Manufacturing		Demonstrations	100-200
Teller stations	50-150	Cellar, calcining	10-30	Sewing	20-100
Posting & keypunch	50-150	Stock, hot top, checker	10-30	Sheet Metal Works	
Barber Shops		Building, slag pits	20	General	100
Beauty Parlors	50-100	Stripping yard	20		
Clothing Manufacturer		Control platforms, repairs	30		
Receiving, shipping	20-50	Mixer building	30		
Storing	20-50	Rolling mills	30-50		
		Shearing	50		
		Sewing, tin plate	100-200		

Winding, measuring	20-50	Motor/machine room	30	Tin plate inspection	100-200
Pattern making, trimming	50-100	Inspection	100	Galvanizing, scribing	100-200
Shops, marking	50-200	Laundries		Stores	
Cutting, pressing	100-500	Washing	20-50	Circulation, stockroom	10-30
	(a)	Ironing	20-100	Merchandising, serviced	30-100
Sewing, inspection	200-500	Library		Merchandising, self-svc	200
	(a)	Reading, stacks	20-50	Textile Mills	
Electrical Equipment		Repair & binding	20-50	Cotton picking, carding	50
Manufacturing		Washing	20-50	Cotton roving, spinning	50
Impregnating	20-50	Study & notes, cataloging	20-100	Beaming & slashing	150
Insulating coil winding	50-100	Card files	20-100	Drawing	200
Testing	50-100	Machine Shops		Others	100
Food Service Facilities		Rough bench	20-50	Warehousing, Storage	
Cashier	20-50	Medium bench	50-100	Inactive	5-10
Cleaning	10-20	Rough grinding, buffing	50-100	Active rough bulky	10-20
Dining	5-20	Fine bench and work	200-500	Active medium	20
Food Displays	30-100		(a)	Active fine	20-50
Kitchen	50-100	Material Handling		Welding	
Foundries		Loading trucking	10-20	General	20-50
Annealing furnaces	20-50	Picking stock classifying	20-50	Woodworking	
Cleaning	20-50	Wrapping, packing, labeling	20-50	Rough sawing, bench work	20-50
Core making	50-200	Offices		Sizing, planing	20-50
Fine inspection	100-500	Accounting	50-100	Rough sanding	20-50
Medium inspection	50-100	Audio-visual areas	20-50	Med. quality machine work	20-50
Molding	50-200	Conference areas	20-70	Bench work	20-50
Pouring, sorting	50-100	Corridors, stairways	20 (k)	Cooperage	20-50
Garage-Motor Vehicles		Drafting	50-200	Gluing, veneering	20-50
Storage	5			Fine machine, bench work	50-100
				Fine sanding & finishing	20-50

(a) Obtained with a combination of general light plus specialized supplementary lighting

(k) Or not less than 1/5 the level in adjacent areas