

Lamp (aka light bulb) identification includes determining the maximum diameter of the lamp as well as the maximum overall length (M.O.L.).

A lamp's diameter is measured in eighths of an inch; therefore, to find the measurement of a lamp's diameter in inches, divide by 8. The maximum diameter of a lamp will be consistent regardless of the lamp manufacturer. Following are examples of the measurements for several lamps that are used in residential and commercial lighting applications:

Par 16 lamp = **2"** diameter ($16/8 = 2$)

Par 30 lamp = **3.75"** diameter ($30/8 = 3.75$)

Par 38 lamp = **4.75"** diameter ($38/8 = 4.75$)

MR11 lamp = **1.375"** diameter ($11/8 = 1.375$)

MR16 lamp = **2"** diameter ($16/8 = 2$)

A-19 lamp = **2.375"** diameter ($19/8 = 2.375$)

A-21 lamp = **2.625"** diameter ($21/8 = 2.625$)

BR30 lamp = **3.75"** diameter ($30/8 = 3.75$)

BR40 lamp = **5"** diameter ($40/8 = 5$)

T8 lamp = **1"** diameter ($8/8 = 1$)

T12 lamp = **1.5"** diameter ($12/8 = 1.5$)

The Maximum Overall Length (M.O.L.) is also important when identifying a lamp. This is done simply by measuring the length of a lamp from one tip to the other. The M.O.L. of a lamp will not always be consistent among all lamp manufacturers. For example, the M.O.L. of a Sylvania, GE, and Phillips Par 30 lamp could vary by as much as $\frac{1}{2}$ ". There is not set rule as to the maximum overall length of a lamp, but there is a definite maximum diameter of the "body" of the lamp.