

STRONG ENOUGH?

Are bright household bulbs generally strong enough for planted tanks?

[PLANTED TANK LIGHTING 101: LEARN MORE HERE](#)



Sunshine LED

9W

750 Lumens

35 umols

1

The 8W-12W "E27" LED is one of the most common household bulbs, and come in many different brands.

IKEA LED

7.7W

806 Lumens

34 umols

2

Compared to the Sunshine brand on the left, this LED from IKEA is more efficient: less wattage, higher lumens, same PAR.

Philips CFL

24W

1550 Lumens

34 umols

3

Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) are less efficient than LEDs. This CFL consumes 24W but produces similar PAR to the IKEA LED on the left.

Philips LED

14W

1400 Lumens

47 umols

4

At the upper range of most household LEDs, this very bright LED provides 47 umols of PAR, below the strength to unlock richer colors.

No brand Plant-Gro LED

? W

? lm

6 umols

5

This supposedly plant-growing bulb is useless for any real plant growth.

At around 40+ umols of PAR, most household bulbs would work for **fish-only tanks**, or planted tanks with only **shade-tolerant plants**. They may **look bright, but are not strong enough** in terms of **Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR)**, to bring out richer tones in most colored plants (at least 50-70 umols). Read our LED review [here](#).