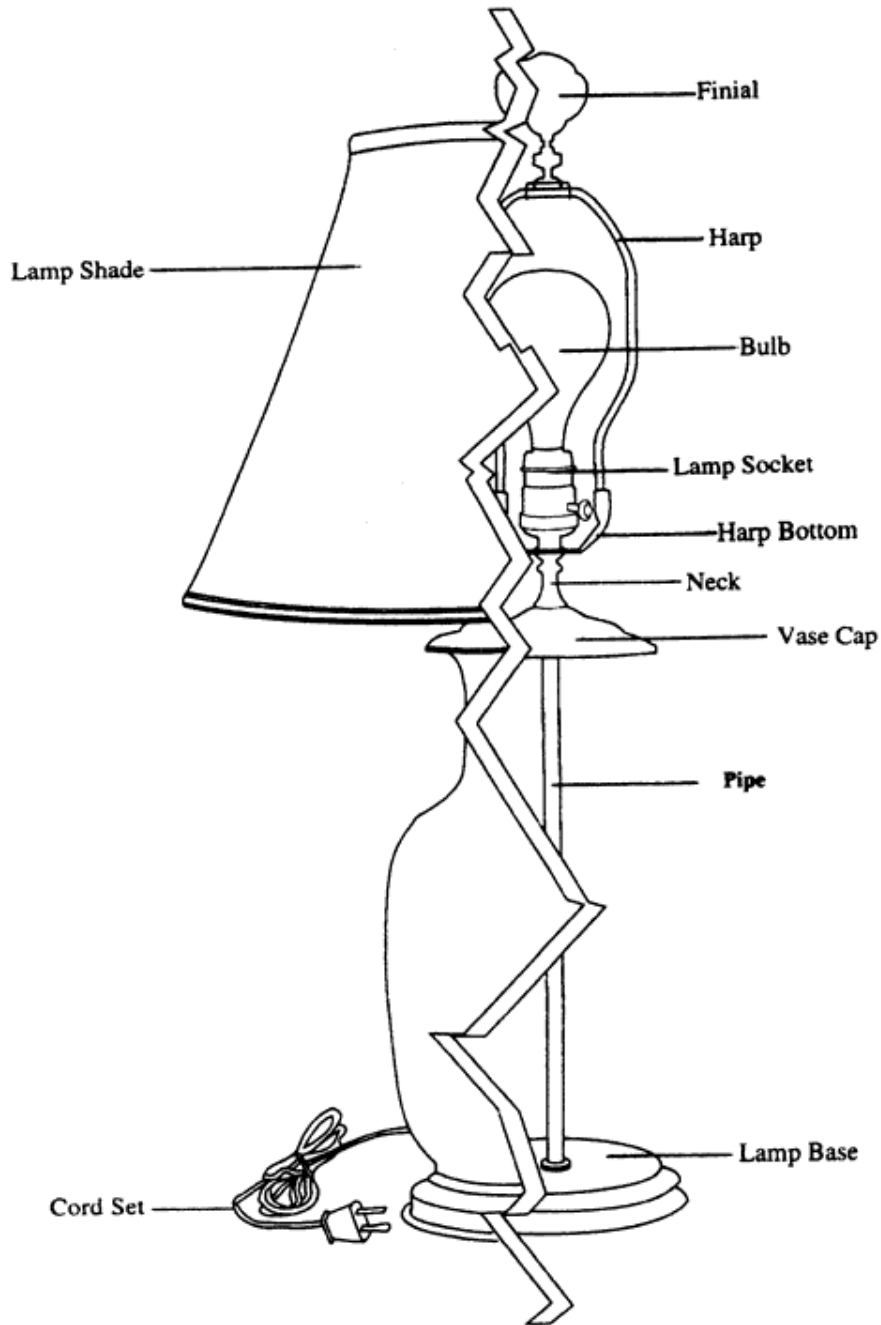


# Lampshade Buying Guide

## How Do I Choose the Right Lampshade?

1. **Sizing Rules of Thumb** - The taller the lamp, the larger the shade.
  - **Shade Height** should be about  $\frac{3}{4}$  the height of the base. The overall height of the shade is directly related to the height of the harp. As a general rule, the overall height of the shade should not exceed the height of the harp (plus  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch) and should not be smaller than the height of the harp. **Note:** Fringe and tassel should not be included in the height measurement.
  - **Shade Width** should be wider than the widest part of the base. Shade width should approximately be equal to the height from bottom of base to socket. Most table lamps take a shade with bottom diameter or 16" or less. Floor lamps take a shade with a bottom diameter of 16- 18 inches or larger.
2. **Match the Base** – Think size, shape, style, and color. Larger lamp bases require larger shades. Square bases may look better with a square shade. Victorian bases need a Victorian shade, etc. Your goal is to match the mood of the base.
3. **Compliment the Base** – A shade should make the base look better without competing with it for attention. Decide if the lamp base will be the focal point. If your base is really unique, choose a simple shade to draw attention to the special features of the lamp.
4. **Hide the Switch** – Your shade should just barely cover the switch. Try different sized harps or add a shade riser to fine tune your shade fit.
5. **Consider the Use** – Reading lamps need a wider shade to provide plenty of light.
6. **Consider the Room** – What is the color and style of your room? Will the lamp have a starring role or compliment its surroundings?
7. **Consider the Bulb** – Be sure you have 2-3 inches of separation from the bulb to shade, especially for higher wattage bulbs. Be sure the top opening is wide enough to vent the heat. Compact Fluorescent bulbs are great for most lamps because they burn cooler.
8. **Consider the Shade Drop** - Shades with a spider-type or UNO-type fitter usually have some distance between the top edge of the shade down to the center of the fitter. The larger this distance is, the less visible the shade hardware, but keep in mind that this raises the position of the shade equal to the drop distance. Shades with spider-type fitters typically feature a 1/2 to 1 inch drop.

## Diagram of a Typical Table Lamp



## How are Lampshades Measured?

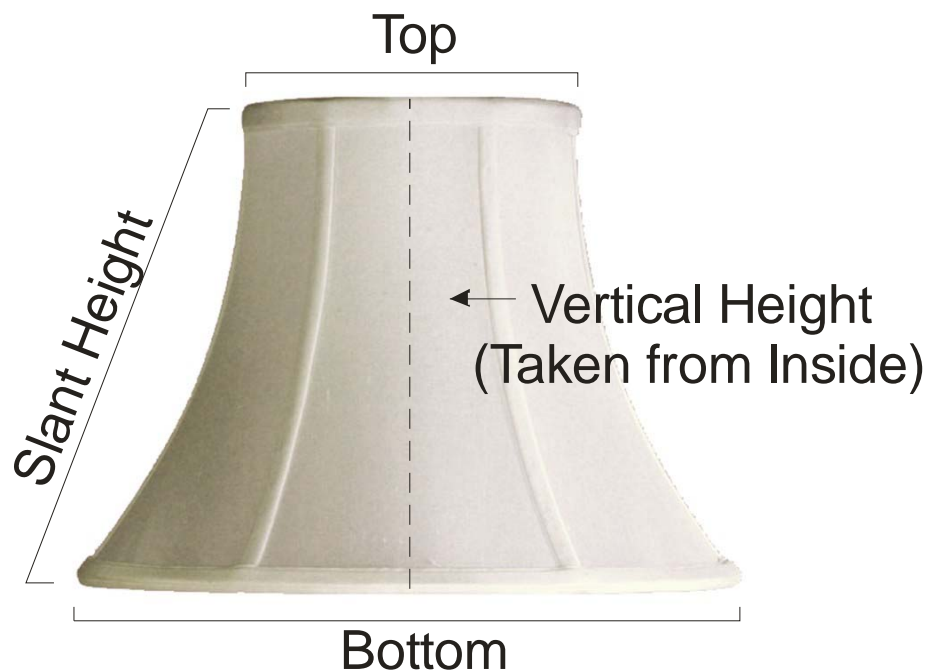
There are two methods of measuring your shade. **\*Be sure to confirm how an advertised shade is measured before purchasing.\***

### Method 1

- Top = Diameter across the top of the shade
- Bottom = Diameter across the bottom of the shade
- Height = Height from bottom of shade to top of shade, taken straight up from **inside** of shade.

### Method 2

- Top = Diameter across the top of the shade
- Bottom = Diameter across the bottom of the shade
- Slant = Side measurement from bottom of shade to top of shade, taken from the **outside** of the shade on the slant.



**\*Be sure to check the method used for measuring the height of the shade that you are considering purchasing.**

## How Do I Know What Fitter My Lampshade Has?

A fitter is simply the way the shade connects to your lamp. **All fitters are integrated in the lampshade so it is very important that you determine the type of fitter that you need for your fixture prior to purchasing your shade.** Most lamps require *spider* fitters. Other common fitters include UNO or clip-on fitters. Check your existing lamp against the diagrams and descriptions below to determine what type of fitter you need.



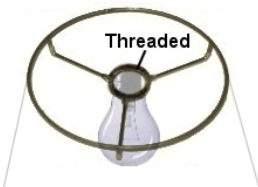
**Clip-on Fitters** - Clip-on lamp shades are typically for chandeliers. The clip fitter is built into the lamp shade and clips over a standard medium or candelabra base bulb *depending on the clip size*. **\*Determine the size bulb the fitter will clip onto prior to purchasing shade.\***



**Spider Fitters** - If your lamp has a harp, you will need a shade with a spider fitter. The spider fitter sits on top of the harp, is secured by a finial, and is integrated in the lampshade.



**Slip-UNO fitters** - The UNO fitter is built into the lampshade. The Slip type sits on the socket and is held in place by the bulb.



**Threaded-UNO fitters** - The UNO fitter is built into the lampshade. The threaded type is typically for down-bridge lamps and features a screw thread for installation above the downward-facing bulb.



**Reflector Bowl Spider Fitters** - These fitters feature grooves in the spider arms for the secure positioning of a reflector bowl. Reflector bowls are not sold as part of the lamp shade. They are usually shipped with the lamp base.

## What Size Shade Should I Buy for my Chandelier or Wall Sconce?

Chandelier and wall sconces typically have candle type sockets, so be sure to choose a shade that has a clip on torpedo/candle style fitter. Shades are sized based on their bottom diameter or width.

The simplest way to determine the correct size shade is to measure the length of your candle cover. Candle covers usually come in standard lengths such as 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 inches. The length of the candle cover should approximate the bottom diameter of the shade you select. In other words, if you have a 4 inch length candle cover on your chandelier or wall sconce, you should select a 4 inch bottom diameter shade.

Bulb clip fitters are usually found on small and miniature type shades that are sized for chandeliers and sconces. The Torpedo bulb clip fitters are narrower in shape and are designed for torpedo/candle shaped light bulbs.



**\*Be sure to confirm the type of fitter a shade has before purchasing it.\***

## Lampshade Glossary of Terms

**Candelabra Shades** - Small shades that usually feature a clip-on fitter. Candelabra shades are designed for chandeliers.

**Finial** - An ornamental decoration made of ceramic, metal, stone, crystal, wood, etc. used to securely fasten the lampshade to the harp.

**Fitter** - The metal structure that attaches the shade to the lamp base. The most common type is the Spider Fitter which resembles a spoked wheel and connects to a harp with a finial. A Clip-On Fitter features metal loops allowing the shade to attach on top of the bulb. Larger clip-on shades are designed to attach directly to a standard size bulb, while smaller chandelier shades have smaller loops to fit a candelabra bulb. An Uno Fitter is designed with a larger center opening which fits snugly on the socket. Slip Uno Fitters feature a large drop and rest on the socket of a table lamp. Threaded Uno Fitters actually screw on to the socket so it can hang downward, typically on down-bridge floor lamps.

**Hardback** - A stiff backing applied to the inner surface of a lamp shade to keep its shape over time. During the creation of a hardback lampshade, the fabric is laminated over a stiff but bendable backing material, typically a plastic such as a styrene. The hard backing helps the shade to keep its form, prevents drooping or warping, and extends the life of the shade. With a hardback shade it often becomes unnecessary to use extra metal framework running between the top and bottom of the shade, since the backing maintains the shape. This removes the shadows caused by the presence of vertical framework showing through the shade.

**Harp** - A vertical U-Shaped metal support used to attach the shade to the lamp base. Harps are typically 6-12 inches high. Changing the size of the harp often helps your shade fit better.

**Lamp Base** - The actual body of the lamp, typically made of crystal, brass, ceramic, resin, stone, etc. The base is wired with a socket and cord.

**Lampshade** - Decorative covering, usually fabric, used to diffuse and direct the light from the bulb. A properly chosen shade will enhance the base and bring out its best features without competing with it for attention. (The life of the party can also use it as a hat late on a wild evening.)

**Lining** - An additional surface applied to the inside of a lamp shade, used to filter or reflect light. A reflective lining such as gold or silver helps to reflect light away from the shade surface and focuses it out of the top and bottom. This keeps the outer appearance of the shade the same color and tone as when the light is off. This is useful for dark or black shades that you want to stay dark-looking even when the lamp is on. It also prevents the shade from absorbing some of the light,

increasing overall light output. A reflective lining also hides the appearance of a bright-spot from the light bulb, as seen through the shade. Other types of lining include plastic, linen and other fabrics, each with its own degree of diffusing and reflecting light. Some linings allow some light through while also increasing the output through the top and bottom of the shade.

**Slant Height** - The measurement from the outermost tip of the top edge of a lamp shade, to the outermost tip of the bottom edge, on a diagonal, in a straight line. This slant height can be used to describe the height (length of the side) of the shade. The slant height is easily measured outside the shade, even when the shade is installed, and should be measured in a straight line regardless of any curvature in the shape of the shade. Bell shades are just as easily measured, measuring in a straight line from top to bottom, ignoring the curved surface.

Since most shades do not have vertical sides, it is difficult to get an accurate vertical measurement, usually requires the shade to be removed from the lamp.

**Socket** - Metal receptacle at the top of the lamp base that holds the bulb and usually contains the on/off switch. A slip UNO fitter or a harp generally sits beneath the socket.