

Light Bulb Codes: Shape and Base

A19 = shape A, 19/8 inch across. E26 = the standard US screw base.

SHAPE CODE	SHAPE	ACROSS	USED IN
A15	Standard, smaller	1-7/8"	Appliances, ceiling fans
A19	Standard	2-3/8"	Lamps and many fixtures
A21	Standard, larger	2-5/8"	Larger fixtures
B, C, CA	Candle	Varies	Chandeliers, sconces
G25	Globe	3-1/8"	Vanities, pendants
BR30	Reflector, wide	3-3/4"	Recessed cans
BR40	Reflector, wide	5"	Larger recessed cans
PAR38	Reflector, focused	4-3/4"	Floods, track
MR16	Small reflector	2"	Track and accent

BASE	NAME	LOOKS LIKE	USED IN
E26	Medium	Screw base	Most US fixtures
E12	Candelabra	Small screw base	Chandeliers, sconces
E17	Intermediate	Mid-size screw	Microwaves, appliances
GU10	Twist and lock	2 pins, push+twist	Spotlights, 120 V
GU24	Twist and lock	2 pins, twist to lock	Some fixtures, some A19s
GU5.3	Bi-pin	2 pins	12 V MR16, transformer
E27, E14	European	Screw bases	Europe's E26 and E12

Shape code: the letters are the shape; the number divided by 8 is the width in inches at the widest point. Height is not in the code.

Many A19 bulbs have an E26 base, but A19 bulbs also come with a GU24 base. Check both codes on the old bulb or its box.

MR16 spots come as 12 V GU5.3 (two pins, transformer) or 120 V GU10 (push and twist). They don't swap.

BR30 or BR40 for a recessed can: Feit's pages and LEDVANCE disagree on 5" and 6" cans, so measure the can's opening.

Turn the power off and let the old bulb cool before changing it.

Sources: GE Lighting, Feit Electric, Philips (Signify), LEDVANCE, Westinghouse.

