

# Footcandle Light Guide



Footcandles are a common unit of measure used by lighting professionals to calculate light levels in businesses spaces. A footcandle is defined as the illuminance on a one square foot surface from a uniform source of light.

The [Illuminating Engineering Society \(IES\)](#) recommends the following footcandle levels to ensure adequate illumination and safety for occupants.

Building Area & Task	Average Maintained Footcandles (Horizontal) (FC)	Range of Maintained Footcandles (Horizontal) (FC)
WAREHOUSING & STORAGE		
Bulky Items—Large Labels	10	
Small Items—Small Labels	30	
Cold Storage	20	10 - 30
Open Warehouse	20	10 - 30
Warehouse w/Aisles	20	10 - 30
COMMERCIAL OFFICE		
Open Office	40	30 - 50
Private Office	40	30 - 50
Conference Room	30	
Restroom	18	7.5 - 30
Lunch & Break Room	15	5 - 20
EDUCATIONAL (SCHOOLS)		
Classroom	40	30 - 50
Gymnasium		
Class I (Pro or Div. 1 College)	125	
Class II (Div. 2 or 3 College)	80	
Class III (High School)	50	
Class IV (Elementary)	30	
Auditorium	7.5	3 - 10
Corridor	25	10 - 40
INDUSTRIAL/MANUFACTURING		
Assembly		
Simple (Large Item)	30	15 - 60
Difficult (fine)	100	50 - 200
Component Manufacturing		
Large	30	15 - 60
Medium	50	25 - 100
EXTERIOR		
Parking (Covered)	5	
Lighting Zone 3 (Urban)	1.5	.75 - 3
Lighting Zone 2 (suburban)	1	0.5 - 2
Gas Station Canopy	12.5	10 - 15
Safety (Building Exterior)	1	0.5 - 2
RETAIL		
General Retail (Ambient)		50
Department Store	40	20 - 80
Perimeter		

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Accent Lighting (Displays)		
AUTOMOTIVE		
Showroom	50	25 - 100
Service Area	50	25 - 100
Sales Lot (Exterior)		
Lighting Zone 3 (Urban)	20	10 - 40
Lighting Zone 2 (Suburban)	15	7.5 - 30
GROCERY		
Circulation	20	10 - 40
General Retail	50	25 - 100
Perimeter		
BANKING		
ATM	20	10-40