



A COMPLIMENTARY ANNIVERSARY GIFT

The Ultimate Home Lighting Handbook

Universal Edition

Simple ideas, real formulas, and honest lessons — from nineteen years of
lighting homes across Chennai and beyond.

19 YEARS OF KAIYAAN · 2007 — 2026

From My Workshop to Your Home

I didn't learn lighting from a textbook. I learned it standing beside my father in his shop, watching him hand a customer the right bulb without a second's hesitation — because he'd already seen a thousand rooms just like theirs.

I've spent twenty-five years around light since then. Fixing it, selling it, importing it, arguing with electricians about it, and more than once, getting it wrong before I finally got it right. Kaiyaan turns nineteen this year, and somewhere in these two decades I noticed something quietly strange: we're taught how to paint a home, how to furnish one, even how to accessorise one — but almost nobody teaches us how to light one. And light is the one thing that changes how every other choice actually looks.

IMAGINE THIS

Two identical apartments. Same sofa, same paint, same rug. One lit with a single harsh tube light. The other lit the way this handbook describes. Ask yourself honestly — which one feels like a home you'd want to come back to?

That's really the whole reason this book exists. So consider this my attempt to hand you what my father once handed me — not theory, but plain, practical instinct earned from lighting real homes for real families. No jargon, no upselling. Just what genuinely works, written the way I'd say it to you across the counter in my showroom.

Keep this somewhere close. Come back to it when you're choosing a fixture, settling a friendly argument with your interior designer, or simply trying to make a tired room feel like yours again.

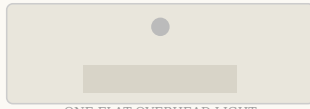
Warmly,

Surendra Bohra

Partner, Kaiyaan Lighting

Why Lighting Changes Everything

Here's something I've watched happen hundreds of times in my showroom: a customer walks in unsure about a sofa fabric, a wall colour, a rug. Then we switch on a warm chandelier above them, and suddenly they can see the room they'd been imagining all along. Light doesn't just decorate a home — it reveals it.



ONE FLAT OVERHEAD LIGHT



THREE LAYERS, WORKING TOGETHER

Same furniture. Same walls. Only the light changed — and the entire feeling of the room changed with it. That's the one idea I want you to carry through this whole handbook: **you're not buying fixtures, you're designing feelings.** Once you see it this way, every choice ahead gets a lot easier.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Table of Contents

- 01 Why Lighting Changes Everything
- 02 The Three Layers of Light
- 03 Choosing Your Colour Temperature
- 04 Room-by-Room Quick Guide
- 05 The Chandelier Sizing Formula
- 06 Hanging Height, Placement & Downlight Spacing
- 07 Seven Mistakes Almost Everyone Makes
- 08 Caring for Your Chandelier
- 09 The Final Checklist
- 10 A Closing Thought

The Three Layers of Light

Most rooms don't fail because the fixture was ugly. They fail because there was only **one** layer of light doing all the work — usually a single bright ceiling light, trying to do a job that was always meant for three.

Every beautifully lit room I've ever walked into, without exception, is built on three layers working quietly together:



Ambient

The general glow filling the room. Your ceiling light, chandelier, or cove lighting. This is the base everything else sits on.



Task

Focused light for actually doing something — reading, cooking, working. Desk lamps, under-cabinet strips.



Accent

Light with a purpose beyond simply seeing — a painting, a plant, a niche. This is where "luxury" quietly lives.

PICTURE YOUR LIVING ROOM

It's 8pm. The ceiling light is off. Instead, a warm chandelier glows softly overhead, a floor lamp lights the corner where you read, and a small spotlight quietly washes over the painting your mother gave you. Nobody designed that room to impress anyone — and yet it does, every single evening.

A simple rule I give every client: with only ambient light, a room looks functional. Add task light, and it becomes livable. Add accent light, and it finally becomes beautiful.

A RULE WORTH REMEMBERING

1 Ambient + 1 Task + 1 Accent = A Room That Feels Finished

Choosing Your Colour Temperature

Colour temperature is measured in Kelvin (K), and honestly, it's the single most under-explained number in our entire industry. So here's the only version of this you'll actually need:

2700K	3000K	4000K	5000K	6500K
Warm Bedrooms, Living	Warm White Dining, Lounges	Neutral Kitchen, Study	Cool White Bathrooms, Office	Daylight Garage, Warehouse

IMAGINE THIS

Two identical bedrooms. One lit at 6500K — the same crisp white you'd find in a hospital corridor. The other at 2700K — soft, golden, unhurried. Both are "well lit." Only one feels like somewhere you'd actually want to fall asleep.

A mistake I see in almost every second home: mixing 3000K in the living room with 6500K in the corridor right beside it. The eye notices the clash instantly, even when the mind can't explain why the space feels a little "off." Keep one colour temperature per visual zone, and half your problem disappears.

HOW MUCH LIGHT DO YOU ACTUALLY NEED

Room Area (sq ft) × 20 Lumens = Total Lumens Required

For a 150 sq ft living room: $150 \times 20 = 3,000$ lumens total — split sensibly across your ambient, task and accent layers, not dumped into one central light.

(Use 20 lumens/sq ft for living spaces, 30 for kitchens and work areas, 15 for bedrooms.)

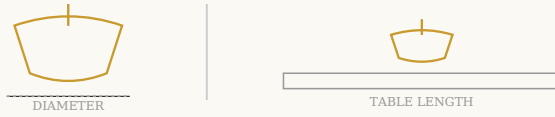
Room-by-Room Quick Guide

Pin this page. It's the exact table I run through with my own clients, long before we ever start discussing fixtures.

ROOM	COLOUR TEMP	BEST LAYER	SUREN'S TIP
Living Room	2700–3000K	Ambient + Accent	Let the chandelier be the jewellery, not the only light in the room.
Dining Room	2700–3000K	Ambient (focused)	Light the table, not the ceiling. Food genuinely looks better in warm light.
Bedroom	2700K	Ambient + Task	Skip the bright overhead near bedtime — a dimmer earns back its cost fast.
Kitchen	4000K	Task (under-cabinet)	Most kitchens are under-lit exactly where the actual cutting happens.
Bathroom	4000–5000K	Task (around mirror)	Light the face from the sides, never only from above — it flattens skin tone.
Staircase	3000K	Accent (step lights)	Small step-lights prevent more accidents than one bright ceiling bulb ever will.
Pooja Room	2700K	Ambient (soft)	Warm and gentle, never harsh — this space should feel still, not lit up.
Home Office	4000K	Task	Place the desk lamp opposite your writing hand, so your own shadow stays out of the way.
Outdoor / Balcony	3000K	Accent	Warm outdoor light makes a home feel welcoming from the gate itself.

The Chandelier Sizing Formula

The question I hear most often in the showroom: "Will this chandelier look too big, or too small, for my room?" Nineteen years in, I still use the same two formulas my father once taught me. They've never once let me down.



FORMULA 1 — DIAMETER FOR LIVING ROOM / FOYER

$$\text{(Room Length ft + Room Width ft)} \times 10 = \text{Diameter in Inches}$$

A 12ft × 14ft living room: $(12+14) \times 10 = 260$ — so look for a chandelier close to 26 inches across.

FORMULA 2 — DIAMETER OVER A DINING TABLE

$$\text{Table Length in Inches} \div 2 = \text{Ideal Chandelier Diameter}$$

A 72-inch dining table: $72 \div 2 = 36$ inches — keeping the fixture roughly a foot narrower than the table on either side.

"I've seen a genuinely beautiful chandelier ruin a room simply because it was the wrong size. Get the size right first — the beauty always follows."

Hanging Height, Placement & Downlight Spacing

The second most common mistake I see on home visits: a beautiful chandelier hung far too high, or dangerously low. These three formulas remove all the guesswork.

HEIGHT OVER A DINING TABLE
30–36 Inches Above the Table Surface

HEIGHT IN AN ENTRYWAY OR FOYER
Add 3 Inches for Every Foot of Ceiling Above 8ft

BONUS FORMULA — SPACING DOWNLIGHTS EVENLY
Ceiling Height (ft) ÷ 2 = Spacing Between Downlights (ft)

A standard 10ft ceiling: $10 \div 2 =$ downlights spaced roughly **5 feet apart** — close enough to avoid dark patches, wide enough to avoid a runway effect.

Three placement rules I never break:

- 1 Centre the chandelier over the table or seating area — not the centre of the room, unless the two happen to be the same point.
- 2 Leave at least 7 feet of clearance from the floor in any walkway.
- 3 In a double-height space, always choose a chandelier with an adjustable drop chain — ceilings settle, and you'll want to adjust later.

Seven Mistakes Almost Everyone Makes

I've walked into more homes than I can count, and the same seven mistakes turn up again and again — across budgets, cities, and styles.

- ✘ **One light for the whole room.** A single ceiling light can never do the job of three layers.
- ✘ **Mixing colour temperatures** in rooms that visually flow into each other.
- ✘ **Choosing a chandelier because it looked stunning in the showroom**, without checking it against your room's actual size.
- ✘ **No dimmers anywhere in the home.** The same light at 100% and at 40% can create two entirely different moods.
- ✘ **Overhead-only bathroom lighting** that casts unflattering shadows across the face.
- ✘ **Ignoring the kitchen counter** — a beautifully lit ceiling above a badly lit chopping board.
- ✘ **Never cleaning the chandelier.** Even the finest crystal loses half its brilliance under one season of dust.

"None of these mistakes are really about money. They're about attention. The best-lit homes I've seen were rarely the most expensive — they were simply the most thoughtfully lit."

Caring for Your Chandelier

A chandelier is the one piece in your home that people quietly forget to maintain — simply because it's out of reach and out of sight. It's also the piece that loses the most brilliance when it's neglected.

- 1 Schedule a professional cleaning once every 12–18 months. Dust dulls crystal and glass far more than most people ever realise.
- 2 Never spray harsh chemicals directly onto crystal, brass, or plated finishes — they dull the shine permanently over time.
- 3 Always switch off and let fixtures cool completely before cleaning.
- 4 Inspect the hanging mechanism and chain links twice a year, especially in coastal or humid cities.
- 5 Use a soft, lint-free cloth, working top to bottom, so falling dust doesn't resettle on sections you've already cleaned.
- 6 For high or double-height ceilings, always call a trained technician rather than reach for a household ladder — we've seen the aftermath, and it's never worth the risk.

A SIMPLE REMINDER

A Clean Chandelier = 30% More Perceived Brightness

That's not a guess — it's what we consistently see when we clean a neglected fixture. The bulbs haven't changed. The room simply looks brighter, because the light can finally travel through clean crystal instead of a season of dust.

The Final Checklist

Before you buy your next fixture, for any room in your home, run through this list. It takes two minutes, and it saves most people from their biggest regret.

- Have I actually measured the room's length and width, not just guessed?
- Have I applied the sizing formula (Chapter 5) before falling in love with a design?
- Does the colour temperature match this room's real purpose (Chapter 3)?
- Have I planned for all three layers — ambient, task, and accent?
- Is there a dimmer option for this space?
- Have I checked the hanging height against my ceiling height (Chapter 6)?
- Does this fixture's finish suit my city's humidity and air quality?
- Have I planned who will clean and maintain it, and how often?
- Am I choosing this because it's beautiful, or because it's genuinely right for this room?

"The right light, in the right place, at the right height — that's not luxury, that's just correct. Everything beyond that is where beauty quietly begins."



NINETEEN YEARS, AND STILL LEARNING

Thank You for Being Part of Our Journey

Every formula in this handbook was learned the honest way — through real homes, a few honest mistakes, and nineteen years of simply showing up. Somewhere in Chennai, there's a chandelier we hung years ago that a family still switches on every evening without a second thought. That, quietly, is the whole point of everything we do.

If even one room in your home feels a little more like yours after reading this, our gift has done exactly what it set out to do.

"Right Light, Right Life."

Need a hand with your own space?

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