



Frequently Asked Questions — Choosing the Right Flashlight

The following *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* were prepared to help answer any questions you may have about selecting a flashlight for your applications.

Q: What are High Lumen (HL) flashlights?

A: A flashlight is considered high lumen when it has an LED that emits an output of at least 500 lumens.

Q: What are High Performance, High Lumen (HPL) flashlights?

A: HPL flashlights are upgraded versions of the HP (high performance) flashlights that we previously offered. The HPL lights provide the user with the beam distance of the HP lights and an enhanced lumen output.

Q: What are Tradition series flashlights?

A: These flashlights are meant for general, multi-purpose use. They provide a strong balance of both lumens and candela, giving users the best value as they are designed for the broadest range of lighting applications such as lights for day-to-day use, for general contractors, or for use as a law enforcement duty light. The Tradition series usually offers the longest regulated run times, allowing you to use the light longer before recharging or replacing batteries.

Q: What makes Streamlight's HL flashlights different from others on the market?

A: While Streamlight's HL lights do feature lumens of at least 500, we continue to pursue an optimum beam with the quality and capability our customers have grown to expect. In designing these lights, we also take into consideration run time, consistency/durability, and cost.

Q: What makes Streamlight's HPL beam different from the HP beam?

A: Streamlight's HPL lights continue to have the long-distance reach of the HP beam, but with the added benefit of increased lumens. In addition, the new HPL lights give you a bigger hotspot, which means more light on your target at a distance. For example, if you were shining the original HP on a person at distance, you would be able to see his/her head and shoulders. With the HPL beam pattern, you'd be able to see from his/her head to the waist.

Q: How has the LED technology changed over the years?

A: LED technology has been shifting to a point where companies can provide higher lumens in their flashlights. Earlier flashlights with high lumens had issues with shorter run times, and the lights also created a lot of heat, which made it hard to hold them. It was only recently that this technology progressed to the point that we felt we could give our users a light with higher lumens that still had a good, focused beam. It was also important to us that we designed our lights to still have a good regulated run time and a reasonable cost.

Q: Why is candela important? Don't I want the most lumens possible?

A: It's all about balance. Lumens is the measurement of the entire light output, regardless of beam focus. Candela (peak beam intensity) is the measurement of the brightest spot in the focused beam and takes into account both the output of the lamp (lumens) and the efficiency of the reflector. If you often find yourself needing light down-range, such as in search and rescue operations, checking utility lines, or even rifle shooting, you may prefer the HPL lights. These will give you the long-range lighting you need, with a more focused beam for greater distances.

Q: Are there ever times you wouldn't want a high lumen flashlight from the HL or HPL series?

A: It depends on how you plan to use the light. An HL flashlight is good for providing maximum illumination, such as lighting up an entire room or vehicle, or using it to help light a scene. An HPL flashlight is good for helping with identification at a distance. However, if you're looking for a light that can be used on an everyday basis, either as a standard duty light or to use in general contracting, you may find that you prefer a light with a lower lumen rating and a more focused beam. In addition, high lumen flashlights, while bright, usually have a shorter regulated run time than other flashlights offered. If you are looking for a light to use during a work shift, or when you want a longer run time, a high lumen light may not fit your needs. Also, lights with lower lumen ratings may be preferred for "up close" work where seeing details is important. For instance, those in the automotive and aviation industries may conduct a lot of "up close" work and extreme brightness may not be the most appropriate match for their applications.

Q: How are Streamlight's beam patterns (Tradition, HPL, and HL) different?

A: These three beam patterns were developed because each offers a different balance of features and are meant for different applications.

- **Tradition Series:** This family of flashlights provides a strong balance between lumens and candela. Lights in this line will also provide the best value, as they are designed for the broadest range of lighting applications, such as lights for day-to-day use, for general contractors, or for use as a law enforcement duty light. In addition, the lights in this series usually offer the longest regulated run times, allowing you to use the light longer before recharging or replacing batteries. If cost is a factor in selecting a light, this series will also have a lower starting price point compared to the other two series.
- **HPL Series:** These High Performance, High Lumen (HPL) lights may have comparable lumens to those in the HL line of lights, but they were designed to deliver long-range lighting, as they provide users with more candela (peak beam intensity). They also give a bigger hotspot, which means more light on your target at a distance. These flashlights are good to use whenever you need a light downrange, such as during search and rescue operations or when checking utility lines from the ground. The HPL lights are similar to our previous HP series, but we have introduced new technology to provide the user with the beam distance of the HP lights and an enhanced lumen output.
- **HL Series:** When you need maximum illumination, these lights give you the most lumens with a good level of candela. Lights in this series are perfect for applications in which you need a lot of light but not a really long reach, such as clearing a dark room or searching an alley, illuminating a vehicle, or lighting a campsite. Because they give off so much light, the HL series of lights provides more of a true flood light effect, while still being small enough to fit in your pocket.

Q: A customer is interested in a certain flashlight, but how can we tell which beam pattern (Tradition, HPL, or HL) is the best for that customer's use?

A: You are going to want to determine what environment the individual is going to be using the light in the most and for what application. For example, if a general all-purpose light for everyday use is needed, you may want to consider a light in the Tradition series. If they need to light up an object from a distance, the HPL Series would be the best choice. Or, if they need a flood-type beam without distance for lighting up a room or large area, they should consider the HL Series.

Q: Are there differences in run time among the three different series?

A: There will be some differences, especially when comparing the Tradition series to the other two. For the most part, the HPL and HL lights will have shorter regulated run times. It is important to note that Streamlight uses "regulated run time" when stating our run time specifications. This allows our users to be confident that our lights operate at a high level throughout the stated run time, rather than the performance degrading over the stated run time.

Q: Can you upgrade a flashlight into an HPL or HL?

A: Because of the electronics and technology involved, kits are not available to change a light from one series to another, such as from a traditional LED to an HL or HPL.