



## 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 in the 500–800 lumen range.

**Q: What makes Streamlight's high lumen 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: Have high lumen LED flashlights been around for a while?**

**A:** While high lumen LEDs have been on the market for some time, Streamlight didn't feel they met our standards for flashlights with the quality and capability that our customers expect. 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 these HL lights to still have a good regulated run time and a reasonable cost.

**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 on to them.

**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.

Depending on how you will use the light, the highest lumens possible may not be the best fit. 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 one of our high performance (HP) lights for long-range lighting, with a more focused beam for greater distances.

**Q: Are there ever times you wouldn't want a high lumen flashlight?**

**A:** It depends on how you plan to use the light. A high lumen flashlight is good for providing maximum illumination, such as lighting up an entire room or vehicle, or using it to help light a scene. 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, or a light that can help with identification at a distance, 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 the Tradition line of LED lights, the HP and HL series of Streamlight flashlights different?**

**A:** Streamlight is committed to offering the broadest line of professional portable lighting tools. These three series were developed because each offers a different balance of features and are meant for different applications.

- **Tradition line of LED lights [Stinger® LED, Strion® LED, TLR-1®(s), TLR-2®(s)]:**  
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 duty light in law enforcement.

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.

While these are lights you may have seen before, Streamlight is introducing new technology to this line to increase each light's performance.

- **HP Series:** These high performance (HP) lights may have the same amount, or slightly more, lumens than those in the Tradition line of LED lights, but were designed for delivering long-range lighting, as they provide users with more candela (peak beam intensity). 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.

This series of lights are slightly larger in size than the Tradition line of LED lights. While the regulated run times usually are comparable to the tradition lights, the HP lights offer more candela, as well as a beam distance that reaches farther than the other series.

Again, you may have seen these lights before, but we have introduced new technology to the series to increase each light's performance.

- **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 an entire 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 the X flashlight, but it seems like there are three different versions of the light – a standard LED, an HP and an HL. How can we tell which is the best light for a 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, is a general all-purpose light for everyday use needed? You may want to consider the standard LED light then. If they need to light an object from a distance, the HP Series would be the best choice in this instance. Or, if they need a flood-type beam that can light up a room or large area, they should consider the HL Series.

The run times of each light, and how long the customer needs to have usable light, should also be considered.

You will also want to consider the customer's price point or budget. For example, if lights are being purchased for a fleet or department, then the Tradition line of LED lights are at the right price for buying multiple lights, while the HP and HL lines are each slightly more expensive.

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

**A:** There will be some differences, especially when comparing the HL series to the other two. For the most part, any HL light will have a shorter regulated run time than its counterparts.

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 HP 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 HP.