

Light sleepers

While restful lighting assists in creating a peaceful and relaxing atmosphere in a bedroom, one will still require bright task lighting for reading. Avoid a bedlamp that's too small – the lamp must be high enough to brighten the pages as you are reading. A lampshade is also the ideal way to add colour to a neutral colour scheme. Two lamps on either side of a bed also need not be the same, as long as they are visually complementary and similar in size.

Here, the $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ ratio rule is turned around with the shade larger than the base. They form a whole, so it would be hard to replace either. If you choose this style, ensure the shade and the base complement each other. Also try matching the pattern on the shade with a scatter cushion, for example, to create harmony.

Lampshade and base R680, scatter cushion R260, both Hemporium; quilt R745, Biggie Best.

Caring for lampshades

Lampshades have to be cleaned often. Read the instructions carefully as the cleaning methods vary for different materials – but remember to always handle with care. Marvellous Maids offers the following tips:

- To remove dust, vacuum the shade carefully with one of the smaller nozzles. If the vacuum cleaner is too powerful, pull a stocking over the head to reduce the suction power.
- To remove pet hair, wrap masking tape around your hand (sticky part facing outward) then run it across the shade.
- To clean the shade, use a damp, textured cloth and wipe it in a downward motion. Clean the base of the globe as well, but use a damp cloth first, followed by a dry one.
- If the shade is very dirty, remove the globe and the shade carefully. Dip a cloth in soapy water, wring out any excess water then wipe the shade slowly in a downward direction. Repeat the procedure using a clean cloth and clean water this time until all the cleaning detergent has been removed. Lastly, use a dry cloth so that the shade will dry faster.
- Don't ever get a shade too wet and don't immerse it in water because it could come apart if the cover is glued to the frame.
- Don't dry a shade in direct sun as it might fade and discolour. Instead place it in a warm, dry area on a towel to absorb the excess moisture. 🏠

Did you know?

Lampshades made their first appearance during the Middle Ages in Paris, in the form of lanterns placed in the centre of the streets. The first public oil lamps were seen in Milan around 1784 – a hemispheric reflector above the flame directed light downwards and later, this function was performed by a slightly concave one closer to the flame. Then, in the 19th century, gas came about, but it became necessary to filter gas light with opal glass or light fabric shades. Therefore, lampshades were not only used to project light in a particular direction but also to soften it. When the electric light bulb came into use, lampshades were used to dim this intense light.

Source: Wikipedia.org



**White satin shade
R299, Woolworths.**



**White embroidered
shade R120,
Woolworths.**



**Small woven shade
R59.95, Boardmans.**



**Ivory-coloured
shade R140,
Woolworths.**