

Buying Guide for Hatco Commercial

Decorative Lamps

When it comes to purchasing foodservice equipment, sometimes buyers have to give up one thing to get another. They can't always (as the saying goes) "have the best of both worlds." At Hatco, we never want our customers to compromise. We work hard to design equipment that's effective, versatile and customizable. All of our solutions achieve this in some way or another, but today we want to talk to you about one equipment type that has all the we-want-what-we-want fans swooning. One part decorative, one part functional — Hatco decorative lamps bring a world of custom solutions without sacrificing on a job well done. Ready to learn more?

In this guide, we'll share important information about commercial heat lamps in general and then dive into the major considerations buyers must keep in mind when selecting a Hatco decorative lamp.

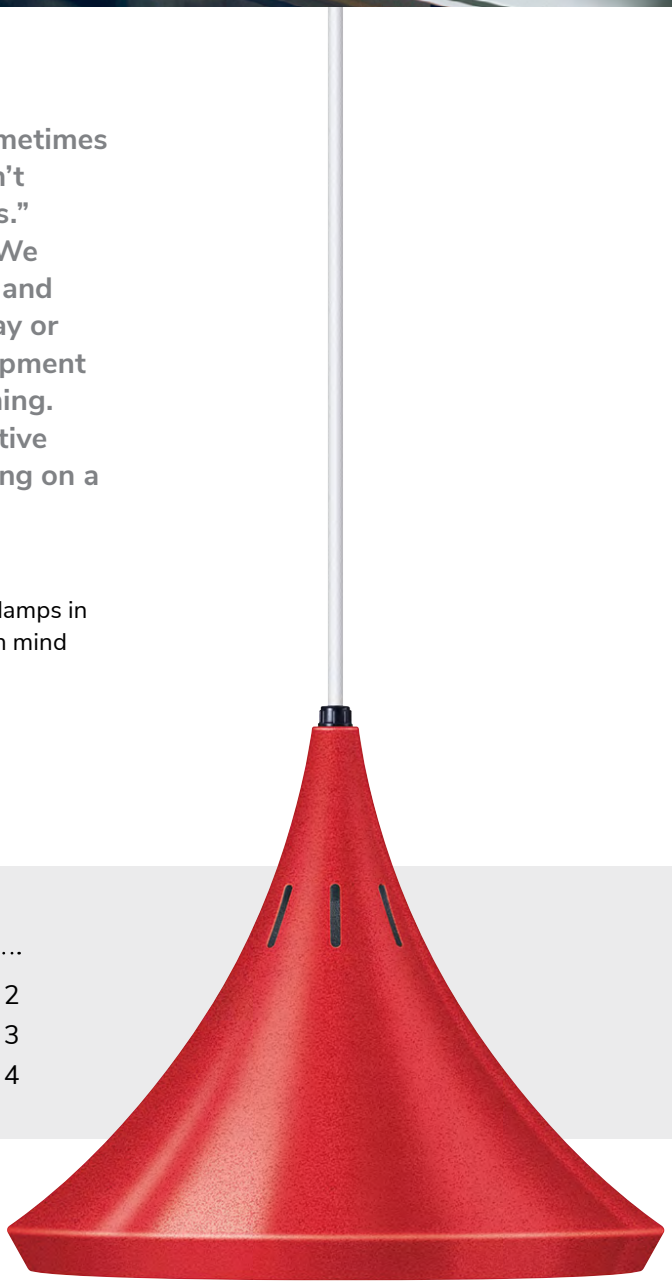
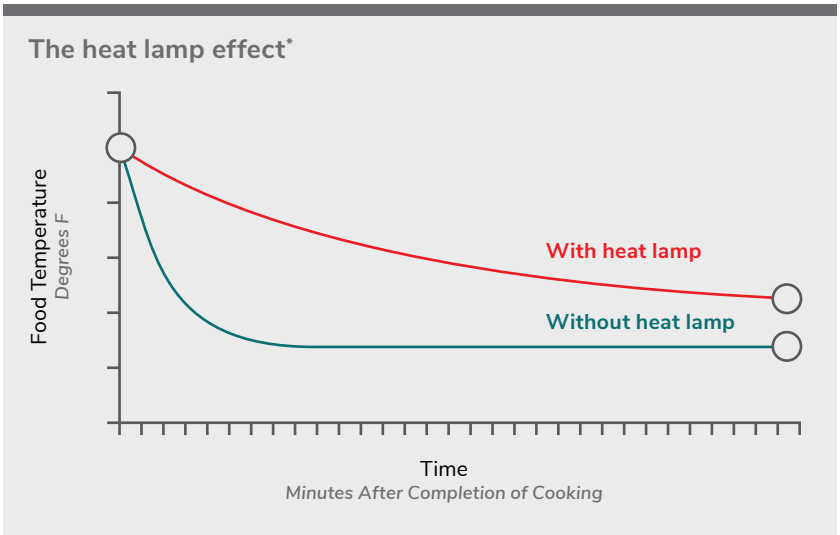


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What are heat lamps?

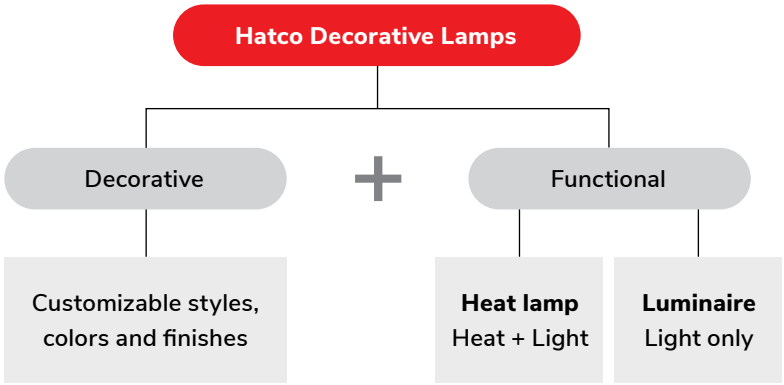
Heat lamps are a type of foodservice equipment that operators use to briefly keep food warm. You'll see these babies show up in kitchen work areas, waitstaff pickup stations, and customer serving counters. Heat lamps do not (we repeat: do not) bring food up to temperature. Rather, they slow the cooling process so foodservice professionals can keep already-cooked food warm during those minutes between when it comes out of the kitchen and ultimately reaches the customer.



* Chart is meant to convey conceptual information and is based on a Hatco-conducted experiment where thermocouples were placed in two identical pieces of food and one food sample was exposed to overheat heat while the other was not.

Getting more than the "heat lamp" name implies

As we mentioned, Hatco decorative lamps are extremely customizable. From shade to mount and canopy styles, colors, and finishes — buyers can "build" a lamp that fits perfectly with the look and feel of their establishment. However, there's another customization that buyers don't always realize is an option. While Hatco offers true heat lamps that give off both light and heat — buyers can also forgo the heat and opt to create a lamp that's 100% luminaire. How's that for a twist!?



A word about food safety

If holding potentially hazardous menu items like meat or fish, the kitchen must cook food to safe temperatures before placing it under a heat lamp. Operators must also consult the manufacturer's product manual to ensure heat lamps are hung at the recommended height needed to provide safe and optimal holding temperatures.



How heat lamps work

Heat lamps are an overhead foodwarming solution, which means heat must travel from the heat source (an infrared bulb) to the food below. This transmission of heat, known as radiant heat transfer, happens via infrared energy waves. Any solid object in the path of these energy waves (aka the plate of food) absorbs the energy. When this energy is absorbed, the temperature of the plate of food on it rises — effectively slowing the natural cooling process of the food.



Radiant (top heat)

Heat transfers through the air via **infrared energy waves** to the plate of food below. The product being held absorbs this energy and the natural cooling process is slowed, so food remains warm for longer.

Translating 'how it works' into real-world applications

Understanding how a heat lamp functions is a necessary step in a buyer's journey to purchase. Heat lamps (like any equipment type on the market) work better for some applications than others. If buyers know the realities of a heat lamp design, they can better assess if it's the right solution for their needs.

Heat pattern
Heat lamps have a very focused heat pattern that's typically around 8 inches (203 millimeters) in diameter. In other words, they provide heat to approximately one plate of food per heat lamp. Given this information, buyers must think about the volume of food they need to hold, how much space they have available, and the number of heat lamps they need.

Installation
If buyers utilize multiple heat lamps, they need to hang them a certain distance apart from the center of one shade to the center of the neighboring shade. Hatco calls for a minimum clearance of 12 inches (305 millimeters) on center of shade between each unit, but this can vary by manufacturer. The required spacing means that there will be real estate between lamps that's outside the primary heating area. This isn't a problem for individual plates of food or to-go orders, but it may not be ideal if operators are holding large trays of food or installing heat lamps above a buffet station. Heat lamps can still work well in these scenarios — it's just recommended that operators add a bottom (conductive) heat source to fill in the "gaps."

Operators can also opt for a smaller diameter shade and add a second row of lamps behind the first row to increase the surface area being heated. This is great for those 12 by 20 inch (305 by 508 millimeter) pans!

Radiant heat
Since radiant heat travels from the heat lamp to the food below it, ambient conditions can manipulate the heat during its journey. If a breeze from a drive-thru window or an air conditioning unit blows cold air through a heat lamp station, the food being held will cool down faster than it would if it were enclosed in a cabinet or placed in more neutral conditions. Unwanted airflow can also come from an unbalanced hood, so it's always a good idea for operators to check this out and make any needed balancing adjustments.

Temperature
Heat lamps are specifically designed for brief hold times. When hung at the manufacturer's recommended height, they provide between 140-160° F (60-71° C) temperatures to the food below. This is not only considered a safe temperature range for holding, but it's also the right temperature to hold food for a short time without continuing to cook it. Again, operators that want to extend their hold time can simply add a bottom heat source (like a heated shelf) to their heat lamp setup.

Surface area and holding
The more surface area of a product exposed to heat, the longer it'll hold at a desired temperature. Therefore, if operators have longer-term holding needs than heat lamps can support on their own, it's worth exploring these two options:

1. Radiant + conductive
Adding bottom, or conductive heat, to a radiant heat source increases the surface area of the product exposed to heat and extends its hold time.



Heat transfers through direct contact with a bottom heat source and via radiant heat transfer from above.

2. Convection
Sometimes heat lamps aren't the answer — and that's okay. There's a whole world of foodservice equipment out there. Exploring equipment that utilizes convection heat transfer is one avenue to consider.



Heat transfers via circulating warm air that envelopes the product. Many convection solutions are enclosed, which impacts accessibility.

Selecting the right Hatco lamp

As discussed, Hatco decorative lamps are highly customizable. This allows operators to build a lamp that meets their exact needs and preferences. All Hatco decorative lamps (both with and without heat) are one of a kind and therefore cannot be returned. The no-return policy can feel a little nerve-wracking at first, but the Hatco Build-a-Lamp tool makes the whole process easy-breezy and worry-free.



Hatco's Build-a-Lamp tool

From electrical specifications to styles, colors, bulb options, mounts, and more — there's a lot of details to specify with a Hatco decorative lamp build. Buyers should always use the Build-a-Lamp tool to guide their selection process, as it's the best way to ensure all customization options and ordering requirements are considered. The tool also provides buyers with a list-price quote, a visual of their custom lamp creation, and a breakdown of each and every selection made along the way.

Visit **hatcocorp.com/build-a-lamp** or click the below button to customize a lamp using our handy online configurator.

Start Building

Decorative lamp selection factors to consider

The Build-a-Lamp tool does a great job walking buyers through the different options and decisions they need to make with a decorative lamp purchase. Today we'll take a closer look at some of those factors and provide additional information to guide buyer selections in the tool.



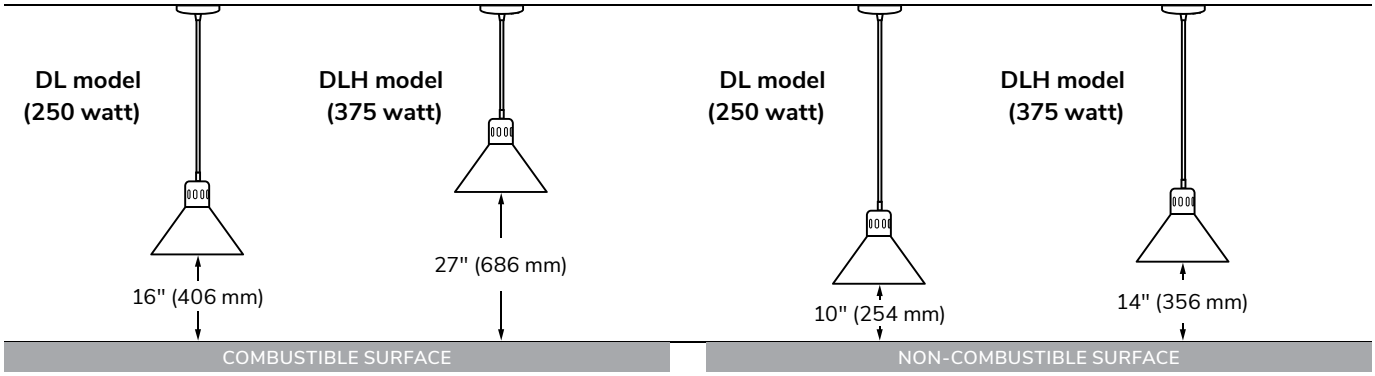
Function and wattage

When building a decorative lamp, buyers must determine if they want an actual heat lamp (heat + light) — or a luminaire that gives off light but no heat. That should be a pretty straightforward decision depending on what a buyer is trying to accomplish.

If a buyer opts for a luminaire (or a "DLL" model), it's worth noting that these decorative lamps support bulbs with a max of 100 watts and are not convertible to a heat lamp.

If a buyer opts for a decorative lamp with heat and light, the next step is to determine the level of power, or watts, that's needed. Hatco decorative lamps are available with up to 250-watt or 375-watt capacities. On its own, a lamp with a 375-watt bulb produces more heat than a model with a 250-watt bulb. However, decorative lamps utilizing heat must be installed with certain height clearances between the countertop and the lamp.

Minimum hanging clearances for DL vs. DLH models



- Add roughly 4" (25 mm) if installing above a heated shelf.
- Install no closer than 1" (25 mm) from a sidewall.

A game of alphabet soup

If you download a product spec sheet from our website or use our Build-a-Lamp tool, you will encounter the below letter combinations, each of which represent a different product model. Here's what they mean:

DLH	Heat lamp with 375-watt capacity
DL	Heat lamp with 250-watt capacity
DLL	Luminaire (no heat) with 100-watt capacity

Note: Operators must only utilize bulbs that are within the indicated wattage capacities. For example, a DLH model could support a 250-watt bulb, but a DL model cannot handle a 375-watt bulb.

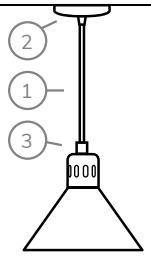
Mounting style

There are four main mounting styles available — cord, retractable cord, stem, and adjustable stem. If operators are mounting their lamps in a straight line and would like the flexibility to move them side to side, all mounting styles available for installation in the U.S. or Canada are compatible with a track adapter and track to accommodate this. Otherwise, they're all mounted to a bracket that's mounted in the electrical box in the ceiling and concealed beneath a canopy.

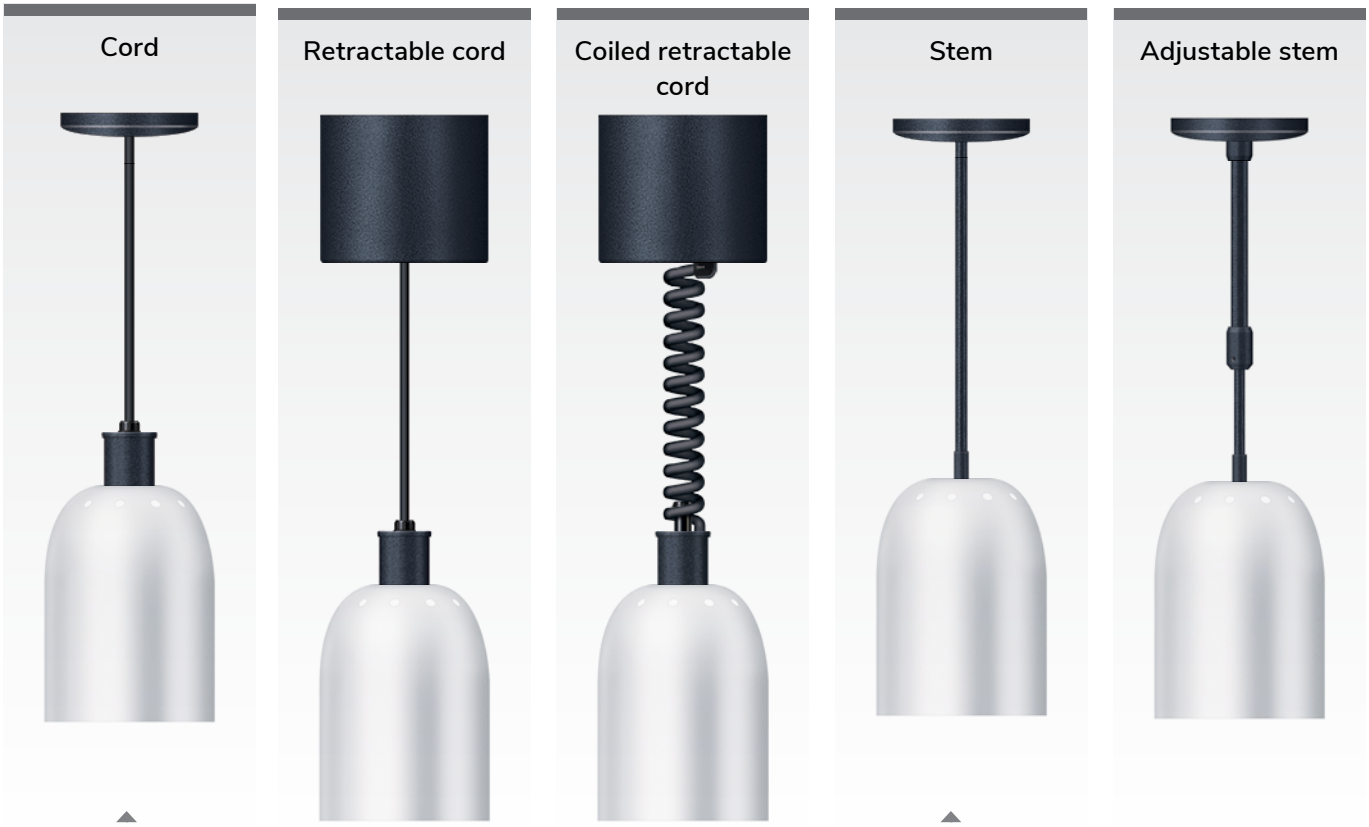
Determining the ideal mount style starts with the right questions:

Which look is preferred?

There are three main mounting elements to look at. The most important element to evaluate is the stem or cord, but buyers should also make note how the look of a canopy or coupling component changes with different cord or shade selections.



1. the stem or cord
2. the canopy at the top of the stem or cord near the ceiling
3. the coupling that sits on top of the shade



The cord and stem mounting styles look very similar from afar, but a cord mount will be a bit thinner in appearance up close (and will sway side-to-side slightly if bumped). Also, always remember to use the Build-a-Lamp tool, as an image of the lamp will show and change as selections in the tool are made!



How much flexibility is needed?

We've talked a lot about how decorative lamps that utilize heat must be installed with certain height clearances. Recommended clearances not only provide a safe distance from combustibles, but they also ensure that the ideal amount of heat is reaching the food. Hang the lamp too high and the food will cool too quickly; hang it too low and the food can receive too much heat and dry out. Each mount style offers a varying degree of flexibility — where some mounts require perfect height calculations and others leave room for adjustment during the installation.

LEAST FLEXIBLE

MOST FLEXIBLE

Stem mounts provide 100% fixed clearances, so it is absolutely critical that buyers order the proper unit length. In other words, there is no adjusting the stem length in-field to increase or decrease the distance between the lamp and the countertop. If the incorrect decorative lamp length is ordered, the clearances will be off.

Cord mounts also provide somewhat fixed clearances. It's always best to order the proper unit length. However, if buyers aren't 100% sure on their measurements, it's best to err on the side of too much cord than not enough. If needed, installers can trim cords in-field, but they have no way to add length!

Adjustable stem mounts offer some flexibility, as they provide installers with a certain range that the stem of the unit can be adjusted up or down during install. However, once the unit is installed at a certain height, it's intended to stay there. See the Build-a-Lamp tool for a list of unit length ranges.

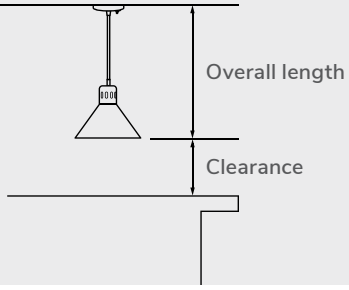
Retractable cord mounts are the most flexible option available, as they allow operators to adjust heat levels after they are installed — simply by moving the lamp up or down. It's just important to note that units have minimum retraction and maximum expansion lengths, depending on the shade height. Also, retractable cord mounts are not available with all shade styles.

How adjustable is a retractable cord mounted unit?

Cord Type	Shade Height	
	8.5" (216 mm)	10.5" (267 mm)
Retractable Cord	24" to 72" (610 to 1829 mm)	27" to 75" (686 to 1905 mm)
Coiled Retractable Cord	31" to 69.5" (787 to 1765 mm)	33" to 71.5" (838 to 1816 mm)

How to measure

1. Calculate clearances needed to achieve ideal heat levels. See page five of this guide for details.
2. Determine heat lamp length by measuring from the ceiling to where the bottom of where the lamp shade should land.
3. Measure again (and then again).

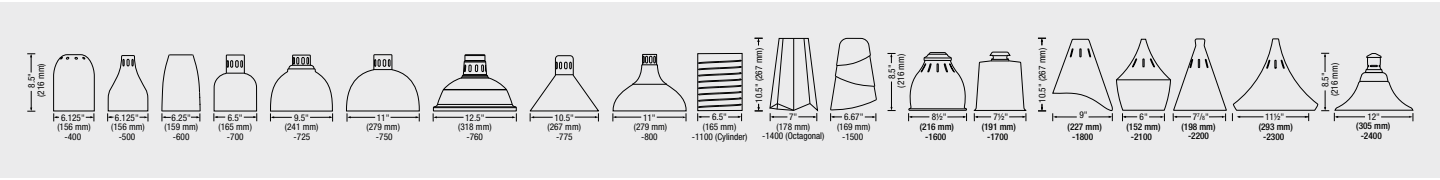


Note: Always consult the product manual or spec sheet for recommended clearances, as they vary depending on the type of mount, combustible vs. non-combustible surfaces, distance from sidewalls, shade height, and more.

Styles, colors and finishes

The Build-a-Lamp tool walks buyers through the many style, color and finish options available, including:

1. **Shade style**
   Regardless of shade style, all decorative lamps with heating capabilities have the same heat pattern of about 8 inches (203 millimeters) in diameter.



2. **Shade and canopy/coupling color and finish**
   The color and finish selected for the canopy will apply to the unit's coupling component. However, the shade color doesn't have to match!

DESIGNER COLORS

Warm Red · Black · Gray Granite · White Granite · Navy Blue · Hunter Green · Antique Copper

GLOSS FINISHES

Smooth White · Gleaming Gold · Glossy Gray · Bold Black

Radiant Red · Brilliant Blue · Clear Brushed Metal

Gloss Finishes for Shade Only – Special Process Required and Extended Lead Times

PLATED FINISHES

Bright Brass · Bright Nickel · Bright Copper · Antique Nickel · Antique Brass · Antique Bronze

EXCEPTION: DL-1500 for Shade Only –

Designer Black/ Antique Copper/ Black

Gloss Bold Black/ **Plated** Bright Nickel/ **Gloss** Bold Black[◉]

Gloss Bold Black/ **Plated** Bright Copper/ **Gloss** Bold Black[◉]

Gloss Bold Black/ **Plated** Antique Nickel/ **Gloss** Bold Black[◉]

Gloss Bold Black/ Radiant Red/ Bold Black[◉]

[◉] **Gloss and Plated Finishes** – Special Process Required and Extended Lead Times

3. **Cord color**
   If buyers are selecting a cord or retractable cord mount unit, they have the choice of black or white (black is standard).

   If buyers are going with a stem or adjustable stem mount, they can choose any of the above designer colors, plated finishes, or gloss finishes — with the exception of Radiant Red, Brilliant Blue, or Clear Brushed Metal.

4. **Bulb color and coating**
   Buyers can select between clear (coated or uncoated) and red (coated or uncoated) bulbs. Color and coating do not impact heating performance in any way. The only difference is that red bulbs will cast a warm glow, which can be a nice option for high-visibility areas where it's important for food to look warm and inviting to customers. Lastly, the coating option is simply a safeguard that prevents shattering should a bulb break. Operators looking for an extra level of protection can opt for this coating.

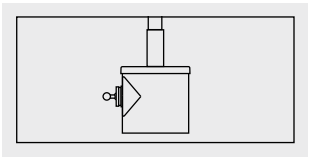
Are all bulbs created equal?
It is always recommended that buyers purchase bulbs (including replacements) for their Hatco decorative lamps through Hatco. Hatco bulbs — specifically the reflectors in the bulbs — are optimized for superior performance, durability, and longevity. This isn't the case with a lot of bulbs on the market!

Switch location

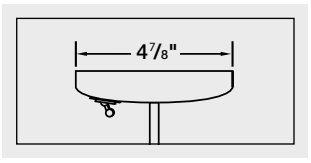
Operators will need to turn their decorative lamps on and off, so they'll need to determine where they want electrical switches to live.

Location options include:

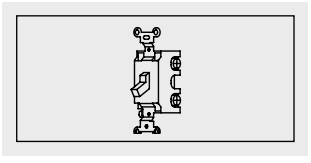
1. **Lower:** Most shade styles (not all) can be supplied with a "lower" switch, which positions the switch on the lamp itself (just above the shade on the unit's coupling component). Lower switches are an option for 250-watt (DL models) and 100-watt (DLL models), but are not offered for 375-watt (DLH models) because the units get hotter than lower-watt options.



2. **Upper:** Opting for an "upper" switch location positions the on/off switch on the unit's canopy, which is higher up on the unit than the above "lower" switch option discussed above. Just like with a lower switch location, this is only an option for 250-watt (DL models) and 100-watt (DLL models). Also, upper switches are not available with track mounts and retractable mounts.



3. **Remote:** If buyers want to move the switch to a wall (rather than have it on the unit itself), they can opt for a "remote" switch option. This option is available with all decorative lamp models and accommodates up to seven 250-watt (DL models) or five 375-watt (DLH models) per remote switch. This is how many track mount units are powered.



4. **None:** By selecting "none" for a decorative lamp purchase, operators are saying they'll have their installer supply the necessary remote switches.

Tracks and switches

Let's say a buyer wants multiple lamps installed on a track, but they only want one switch to turn the whole track of lamps on and off. What do they do? Well, they simply order one of the lamps with a remote switch and "none" for the other units on the track.

Please note, lamp shade diameter and wattage may limit the number of lamps per track. See product manual for details and always consult the installer, who is responsible for the proper sizing of supply circuit and lamp load. To ensure warranty coverage, do not install in damp or wet locations (including above steam tables).



Voltage isn't one-size-fits-all

Before ordering a decorative lamp, buyers must ensure that they're purchasing a unit with the proper voltage for their location. Hatco offers 240-volt and 120-volt units, but they are not compatible with all geographical locations.

120-volt units are compatible with most locations, but buyers looking to install these units outside of the U.S. or Canada should confirm if their location will support a 120-volt or 240-volt unit. Buyers should always check with a licensed electrician or the utility company if they are unsure of the available voltage at their location.

240-volt units are only for locations outside of North America. These units cannot be installed in the U.S. or Canada.

Temperature check

Well that's it! How are you feeling? If you're ready to start customizing your Hatco decorative lamp (either heat and luminaire or luminarie only), head over to **hatcocorp.com/build-a-lamp** and get building. Not every selection you need to make in the tool is covered in this guide, but not to worry — the tool makes the entire process incredibly easy. Still have questions? Your friendly Hatco representative is here to help!

Build-a-Lamp **Contact Us**



Hatco Corporation
P.O. Box 340500
Milwaukee, WI 53234-0500 USA
414-671-6350
support@hatcocorp.com