

# Frequently Asked Questions



## Decora® Universal Dimmers

- **What are the benefits of using the Universal LED/CFL compatible dimmer?**

The benefits of using this dimmer include smooth operation for precise dimming, low level starting and flicker-free operation when used with incandescent and compatible dimmable LED/CFL bulbs. It is designed to provide optimal performance when used with dimmable LED or dimmable CFL bulbs. Even if you are currently using incandescent bulbs, you can future proof by installing the Universal Dimmer to ensure compatibility in the future with dimmable LED/CFL bulbs. For quality assurance the Universal Dimmers have been evaluated and listed specifically for use with dimmable LED and dimmable CFL loads in addition to incandescent.

- **What types of bulbs can be used with the Universal Dimmers?**

Universal dimmers are designed to work with dimmable LED, dimmable CFL, incandescent and halogen bulbs. Some universal dimmers are also designed for Magnetic Low Voltage (MLV) and Electronic Low Voltage (ELV) loads. Leviton recommends only LED and CFL bulbs that are labeled as DIMMABLE be used with the Universal Dimmer. The packaging on the bulb should identify it as dimmable.

- **Will I save energy if I dim LED and CFL bulbs?**

Yes, dimming any bulb reduces energy consumption. Below is an example of the energy savings\* realized when you dim incandescent, dimmable LED or dimmable CFL bulbs.

Relative Light Output (% Dimmed)	75W Incandescent (Wattage)	26W CFL (Wattage)	17W LED (Wattage)
100%	75W	26W	17W
75%	63W	18W	12W
50%	51W	13W	7W
20%	34W	7W	3W

\* Energy savings may vary.

- **Can I use an incandescent-ONLY dimmer on dimmable LED/CFL bulbs?**

No. Agency listings associated with Universal LED/CFL dimmers have specific test requirements to safely control and operate dimmable LED and CFL bulbs. We cannot recommend the use of an incandescent dimmer with dimmable LED/CFL bulbs.

- **Can I use an Electronic Low Voltage dimmer on dimmable LED/CFL bulbs?**

Electronic Low Voltage (ELV) dimmers incorporate reverse-phase dimming control, which tends to provide enhanced performance with dimmable LED bulbs. Before using an ELV dimmer with LED/CFL bulbs, ensure the dimmer indicates that it is listed for use with these bulb types. These dimmers do require connection to a neutral wire, which is often not available in older construction. In addition, Electronic Low Voltage dimmers are typically a more expensive solution.

- **Is a neutral wire required with the Leviton Universal Dimmers?**

No, the Universal Dimmers are two wire devices that can replace any standard electrical switch.

### Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.

201 North Service Road, Melville, NY 11747-3138, 1-800-323-8920 Tech Line: 1-800-824-3005 Fax: 1-800-832-9538 [www.leviton.com/universal](http://www.leviton.com/universal)

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- **What makes dimming a dimmable LED/CFL bulb different than dimming an incandescent bulb?**

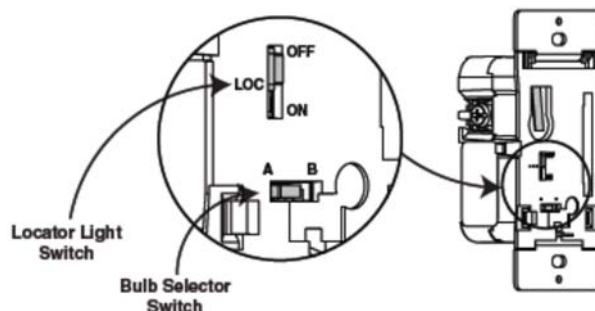
Dimmable LED/CFL bulbs contain electronic circuitry not present in incandescent bulbs. Therefore, it can be difficult to achieve the same smooth start and complete dimming range as one sees with incandescent bulbs. The Universal Dimmer is designed to interact with the electronic circuitry, providing smooth low level dimming on many bulbs offered by the major manufacturers.
- **What colors do the Universal Dimmers come in?**

The SureSlide® model is available in white, ivory and light almond. The IllumaTech® and Decora® Rocker/Slide models have changeable faceplates and come packaged with up to three colors in a box: white, ivory and light almond. Additional colors and packaging options are available. Visit [Leviton.com/universal](http://Leviton.com/universal) for details.
- **What are the LED load ratings for the Decora Rocker Slide Dimmer?**

The Decora Rocker Slide Dimmer DSL06 is available with a 300W (2.5A) LED load rating. The DSM10 Decora Dimmer has a 450W (3.75A) load rating.
- **Does the Decora Rocker Slide Universal Dimmer have a locator light?**

Yes. The locator light is a small light on the device that illuminates when the device is off. This light is helpful in locating the dimmer in the dark.
- **How do I turn the Decora Rocker Slide dimmer locator light ON or OFF?**

A LED on/off selector is located under the rocker switch. Simply remove the color change kit face and turn the switch to the desired position.



- **Why are my lights still on, or glowing, when the dimmer is in the OFF position?**

When the locator light is in the ON position, a very small amount of current is passed through the LED bulb. Very sensitive LED bulbs may appear to glow from this current. To fix, turn the locator light to the OFF position.
- **Why do the Universal Dimmers have a lower rating for LED and CFL bulbs than they have for incandescent bulbs?**

LED and CFL bulbs require an “in-rush” current to start, which is not required on incandescent bulbs. The Universal Dimmers are designed to handle this “in-rush” current as long as the total wattage does not exceed the LED/CFL rating of the dimmer. An interesting fact is that even 150 watts of dimmable LED/CFL bulbs will give more light output than 600 watts of incandescent bulbs.

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- ***The packaging indicates that the Universal Dimmers are suitable for single pole and 3-way applications, what does that mean?***

Single pole means controlling one or more lighting fixtures from one location. 3-way is the ability to control one or more lighting fixtures from two separate switch locations. An example of a 3-way is the ability to control the same fixture from a switch at the top of a staircase and from another switch at the bottom of the staircase. The Decora Rocker Slide Universal Dimmer can only be dimmed from a single location and turned ON and OFF from the second location (to the current dim level). If you require the ability to dim from multiple locations please see the Decora Digital line of controls.

- ***Are there any adjustments I will need to make to the Universal Dimmer based on the bulb I choose?***

The universal dimmer is preset to the LED/Incandescent mode. Under most conditions, the dimmer can be used with all compatible bulb types in this mode. If you experience flicker in the low end range of dimming, the low end trim adjustment can be used to improve performance. Some dimmable CFL bulbs may require an additional “kick start\*”, or automatic adjustment, to turn on. In this case, it is necessary to adjust the dimmer to CFL mode.

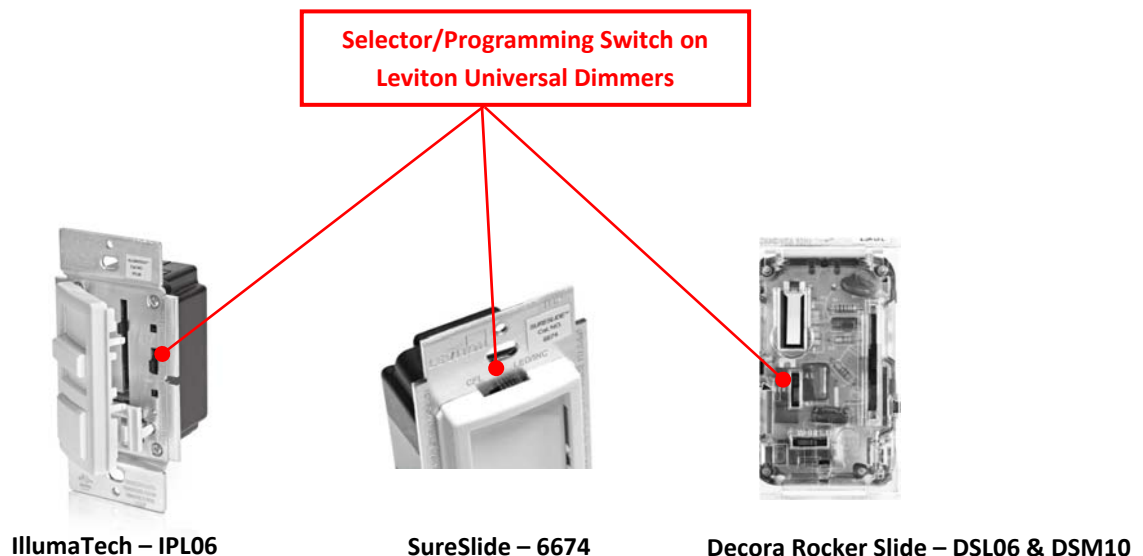
- ***What is the selector/programming switch and how does it work?***

Leviton Universal Dimmers feature an easy to use selector switch for choosing bulb applications. It is pre-configured to the LED/Incandescent mode which is optimized for a wide range of LED applications. In CFL mode the dimmer provides a “kick start\*” feature for harder to start bulbs.

In CFL mode, the dimmer’s “kick start” feature maximizes the useable dimming range for many bulbs by allowing the user to turn on the light at the lowest possible position.

The selector switch has an optional programming mode. The programming mode option is used to change the factory settings for minimum light level. For example, the dimmer settings can be changed to eliminate any noticeable flicker or users can re-calibrate the pre-set to ensure the bulb starts at the lowest light level.

Please refer to and follow installation instructions on [www.leviton.com/universal](http://www.leviton.com/universal)



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\*“Kick start” is a precise boost of energy applied to difficult to start CFLs to initiate smooth start up and prevent flickering. This feature maximizes the usable dimming range by allowing the user to start at the lowest possible dim/bright bar position.

- **Why is there no light from the LED bulbs when the dimmer is ON at the lowest dim setting?**  
The universal dimmers have been designed to function with a variety of LED bulbs. Some LED bulbs are more sensitive than others, and need a higher voltage to “turn on”. In order to fix this, raise the low-end trim adjustment until the LED bulb turns ON.
- **What if I use dimmable LED bulbs when the dimmer is set to CFL mode?**  
This is perfectly acceptable, especially if you encounter LED bulbs that are difficult to start at the low preset dimmer level. In CFL mode the dimmer will provide increased energy or a “kick start\*” to start the bulb.
- **I have some LED bulbs that seem to have a slight delay before they turn on, is this to be expected?**  
It may depend on the bulb. If your dimmer has a soft on and off feature where it fades the lights on and off as opposed to abruptly turning them on like a regular switch, there could be a slight delay before some bulbs will turn on. While most will operate fine with the soft on and off and changes to dimmer settings, there are some bulbs that have a built-in delay during those events and it may take a moment or so before they will turn on or respond to changes in dimmer settings.
- **What will happen if I mix bulb types with the Universal Dimmer?**  
We strongly recommend you use the same light source to achieve consistent performance from bulb to bulb. If you choose to mix bulb types on the same dimmer, it is possible that you will experience a variation in dimming performance and start up characteristics.
- **My lights sometimes turn off before the dimmer slide is at its lowest level. Why does that happen and can I fix that?**  
Some LED and CFL bulbs will turn off at different voltages. Leviton’s Universal dimmers have a low-end trim adjustment so you can have the full range of the slider match the full range of the bulb. See instructions for details on how to adjust for your specific dimmer.
- **Is de-rating required when installing more than one Universal Dimmer in the same wallbox?**  
De-rating may be required if you have two or more dimmers sharing a wallbox. If you install more than one dimmer next to each other and are using incandescent bulbs, it is required that you reduce the load that each dimmer can control (de-rating). No de-rating is required when using dimmable LED or dimmable CFL bulbs in multi-dimmer installations. **Refer to the de-rating chart in the instructions for maximum load per dimmer.**

Universal De-Rating Chart			
Model	1 DIMMER	2 DIMMERS	3 DIMMERS
IPL06, 6672, 6674, RNL06, RDL06,	600W incandescent 150W dimmable LED/CFL Per dimmer	500W incandescent 150W dimmable LED/CFL Per dimmer	400W incandescent 150W dimmable LED/CFL Per dimmer
DSL06, TSL06	600W incandescent 300W dimmable LED/CFL	500W incandescent 300W dimmable LED/CFL	500W incandescent 300W dimmable LED/CFL
DSM10 (also suitable for Magnetic Low Voltage)	1000W incandescent 450W dimmable LED/CFL	800W incandescent 450W dimmable LED/CFL	700W incandescent 450W dimmable LED/CFL

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