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7 Best Flashlights of 2024

By [Deirdre Mundorf](#)



Reviewed by [Marlo Jappen Porto](#)

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Flashlights are an important safety tool to keep on hand. Whether you're planning around power outages, camping, hiking, hunting, or just searching for a lost item that fell under the bed, having a flashlight illuminates the way. However, the specific task you're performing and the lighting it demands will greatly impact which flashlight is the right fit for you. Other variables such as your budget and how you plan to carry the flashlight will also come into play.

The Fenix PD36R V2.0 Rechargeable Flashlight earns our top recommendation because it has six lighting modes, a high level of brightness, and is waterproof and dustproof. However, our list includes other options to match different needs and purposes.

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Best Overall

Fenix PD36R V2.0 Rechargeable Flashlight »

PROS:

- ✓ Integrated two-way body clip
- ✓ Six lighting modes
- ✓ Protected from dust and can be submerged in water

CONS:

- ✗ Not very budget-friendly
- ✗ Short run time on Turbo (1,700-lumen) setting

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The Fenix PD36R V2.0 Rechargeable Flashlight offers six different lighting modes to match the demands of each task. With a maximum brightness of 1,700 lumens, this flashlight is very bright. For reference, lumens are a measurement of the amount of visible light that a source emits, as perceived by the human eye.

In addition to being bright, the flashlight offers a beam distance of up to 1,299 feet on the highest setting. Its rechargeable battery lasts for up to 482 hours on the lowest setting or up to three and a half hours on the 1,700-lumen Turbo setting.

As an IP68 (Ingress Protection 68)-rated model, this flashlight is both waterproof and dustproof. It can be submerged to depths up to 2 meters without interfering with its functionality. It's also impact-resistant for drops up to 1 meter. The flashlight weighs just 5.89 ounces (including the weight of the battery) and is less than 6 inches long, making it easy to stick in a pocket or zippered pouch when you're out on the trail or working.

Additionally, it features a two-way body clip to allow for hands-free operation. The Fenix PD36R V2.0 Rechargeable Flashlight is one of the models that Amanda Benson, the creator of the outdoors blog "[Dusty Trail RV](#)" recommends. She says, "This one is a great flashlight that I hang by my backdoor. It's light and easy to grab and use. It also fits well in [backpacks](#) and is great for [hiking](#) and [camping](#)."

Specs:

List Price:	\$100.45
Length:	5.54 in.
Weight:	5.89 oz.
Max Brightness:	1,700 lumens

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best Budget

Anker Rechargeable Bolder LC90 LED Flashlig...



PROS:

- ✓ Relatively inexpensive
- ✓ Five settings
- ✓ Anti-slip design

CONS:

- ✗ Only emits 900 lumens
- ✗ Takes six hours to recharge

Buy From Amazon

The Anker Rechargeable Bolder LC90 LED Flashlight costs just \$40, making it much cheaper than the other models on our list. This flashlight offers a lightweight and compact design, so it’s easy to hold or keep in a pocket. It’s 6.22 inches long and weighs 6.2 ounces. The LC90 has an anti-slip finish to prevent it from dropping out of your hand. It can also stand on its end for hands-free use or to function as an emergency lamp.

The Bolder offers five different setting options: High, Medium, Low, Strobe, and SOS. The highest setting delivers 900 lumens of light. While this isn’t as bright as other models, it should still be sufficient for many uses. The battery only lasts for about six hours (on Medium mode), which isn't as long as many of the other options on our list. It will take approximately six hours to recharge the flashlight using the included USB cable.

Specs:

List Price:	\$33.99
Length:	6.22 in.
Weight:	6.2 oz.
Max Brightness:	900 lumens

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best Everyday Carry (EDC)

Nitecore EDC27 Ultra Slim Flat EDC Flashlight »



PROS:

- ✓ Lightweight
- ✓ Bright 3,000-lumen setting
- ✓ Recharges in just 75 minutes

CONS:

- ✗ Run time decreases significantly with high-lumen output
- ✗ Cannot be submerged underwater

[Buy From Amazon](#)

If you're looking for an EDC flashlight – a compact, lightweight model that can be carried with you everyday – the Nitecore EDC27 Ultra Slim Flat EDC Flashlight fits the bill. The flat and slim design of this model is ideal for carrying on your person or in a bag without being cumbersome. At just 4.37 ounces, it's also very lightweight. It's constructed from high-quality stainless steel and has an IP54 rating, meaning it can withstand being splashed by water.

Don't let the flashlight's smaller size fool you, though. The Nitecore EDC27 Ultra Slim Flat EDC Flashlight is a very powerful model capable of emitting up to 3,000 lumens. There are six different lighting modes, including a strobe option for safety. The rechargeable battery operates for up to 37 hours. (Though, the run time decreases to just one hour and 45 minutes on the high 1,000-lumen setting). When the battery is low, use the included USB-C cable to recharge it and get the flashlight ready for use in just 75 minutes.

Specs:

List Price:	\$89.95
Length:	5.34 in.
Weight:	4.37 oz.
Max Brightness:	3,000 lumens

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best Rechargeable

Olight Baton 3 Pro Rechargeable Flashlight »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Offers a run time of up to 120 days
- ✓ Waterproof
- ✓ Recharges in three and a half hours

CONS:

- ✗ Can get very hot on turbo mode
- ✗ Not compatible with other charging cords

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The Olight Baton 3 Pro is a rechargeable flashlight offering up to 1,500 lumens of brightness. The flashlight is small – just 3.99 inches in length and 3.63 ounces in weight – but powerful. The beam of light it produces can reach up to 175 meters, and the battery can last for up to 120 days on the lowest setting. This model is also waterproof with an IPX8 rating.

This Olight features a sliding switch designed for ease of operation. It offers five light levels and a strobe setting. This model is constructed from magnetic stainless steel with textured body knurling to provide a better grip. It has an integrated two-way clip that will allow you to attach it to your gear, along with a lanyard hole if you prefer to wear it around your neck. An L-

stand is included with each purchase to allow for convenient storage and ensure that you can quickly find the flashlight when it's needed.

Specs:

List Price:	\$69.99
Length:	3.99 in.
Weight:	3.63 oz.
Max Brightness:	1,500 lumens

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best Tactical

Streamlight ProTac HL 5-X USB Flashlight »



PROS:

CONS:

- ✓

Three operating modes
- ✗

On the heavier side
- ✓

Immersible in up to 1 meter of water

Buy From Amazon

Originally intended for those in military and law enforcement professions, tactical flashlights provide bright light for added safety in dangerous situations.

With a lumen output of up to 3,500, the Streamlight ProTac HL 5-X USB Flashlight is one of the brightest units on this list. It offers three operating modes to help you find the right fit for each task, which include high/strobe/low, high only, and low/medium/high. The beam can reach a distance of up to 452 meters.

On the lowest setting, the battery of this rechargeable option can last for up to 11.5 hours. However, if you’re using the higher settings, it will discharge in about one hour and 15 minutes. If the rechargeable batteries do die, you have the option of using four CR123A batteries, too, ensuring you’re never without your trusty flashlight. Each purchase includes a micro USB charging cable, a wrist lanyard, and two rechargeable batteries.

Specs:

List Price:	\$108.50
Length:	9.53 in.
Weight:	18.4 ozs.
Max Brightness:	3,500 lumens

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Camping

Coast XP18R Rechargeable-Dual Power Flashli...



PROS:

- ✓ Compatible with both rechargeable and alkaline batteries
- ✓ Bright 3,650-lumen Turbo Mode
- ✓ Offers both bull's-eye and flood beam options

CONS:

- ✗ Not submersible underwater
- ✗ Heavy
- ✗ Expensive

[Buy From Amazon](#)

If you have a camping trip coming up and don't want to be left out in the dark, consider the Coast XP18R Rechargeable-Dual Power Flashlight. This dual-power model comes with rechargeable batteries that offer a run time of up to 58.5 hours on the lowest setting or six and a half hours on the highest setting. The battery-life indicator will help you monitor the battery life to know when you need to recharge them. However, if the batteries run out and

you don't have the means or time to charge them, you can power this model using regular AA batteries (not included with the purchase).

This model offers the brightest output of any of the flashlights on our list: up to 3,650 lumens. Switch between Low, Medium, High, and Turbo settings depending on what you're doing and how much light is needed. The Coast XP18R Rechargeable-Dual Power Flashlight also offers an adjustable beam. Use the slide focus to switch between a wide flood beam or a more concentrated spot beam based on your specific needs.

Specs:

List Price:	\$119.99
Length:	10.3 in.
Weight:	19.4 oz.
Max Brightness:	3,650 lumens

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Emergency Preparedness

Pelican 3310 PL Emergency LED Flashlight »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Glows in the dark
- ✓ Waterproof
- ✓ Lightweight and compact
- ✓ Three modes
- ✓ Limited lifetime warranty

CONS:

- ✗ Not the brightest option
- ✗ Won't glow in the dark if you keep it in a drawer

[Buy From Amazon](#)

The Pelican 3310 PL is a favorite of Daniel Kilburn, the founder of Emergency Action Planning LLC. “It glows in the dark, so as long as you’re not keeping it out of the light, like in a drawer, you should be able to find it easily,” he says.

This flashlight has an IPX8 rating, meaning it’s waterproof. In fact, it can function properly even after being submerged in fresh water for up to 30 minutes. It has three modes: high, low, flashing. Lightweight and portable, this model comes with a removable clip so you can easily attach it to your person.

For emergencies, Kilburn doesn't recommend using flashlights with a rechargeable built-in battery. "The active operational light time is less than a battery-operated device, and if you haven't prepared to charge off-grid, they will be useless," he says.

A battery-powered model, the Pelican 3310 PL has a runtime of 8 hours on its highest setting and 202 hours on its lowest. Three triple A batteries are included with your purchase. Plus, Pelican covers this product with a limited lifetime warranty.

Specs

List Price:	\$44.50
Length:	6.14 in.
Weight:	6.2 oz. (with batteries); 3.7 oz. (without batteries)
Max Brightness:	378 lumens

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

The Bottom Line

The best flashlight for you may look very different from the best flashlight for another individual. Several factors including how you'll use the flashlight, how much light you need, whether or not you prefer a rechargeable model, and your budget will impact which model is best for you. The Fenix PD36R V2.0 Rechargeable Flashlight is our recommendation for the best overall flashlight. We like that it offers several different lighting modes, including a 1,700-lumen Turbo setting, a long run time, and an IP68 rating.

Things To Consider When Buying Flashlights

Size and Weight: Flashlights are available in a range of sizes, and there's no one "right" size. Smaller and lighter models will be easier to carry with you or to hold for extended periods. A more compact size can easily fit in a pocket, allowing you to keep it within easy reach.

Larger flashlights offer some benefits as well. Since they have more space to accommodate batteries, they may offer longer run times. Compared to smaller models, larger flashlights are less likely to get hot. Large flashlights may also generate more light than smaller models. However, with technological advancements, this isn't always the case.

Brightness: Flashlights are designed to illuminate the area around them, so one of the most important factors to consider when shopping is each model's brightness. Brightness, or light output, is measured in lumens. The higher the lumens, the brighter the flashlight. While some models may offer fewer than 100 lumens, others offer a brightness greater than 3,000 lumens. However, depending on what you need a flashlight for, such a powerful model may be overkill. You'll need to assess how you plan to use the flashlight and the level of light output that matches the tasks you will use it for. For example, if you're going hiking or camping in pitch-black conditions, you'll need a greater light output level than someone who will only be using a flashlight to read in bed.

Sheri Nagle, who runs an [eponymous blog](#) about outdoors and travel, recommends looking for flashlights with "varying brightness settings for versatility." Models that offer multiple settings make it possible to adjust the brightness of the light to match your lighting needs for a given task.

Beam Distance: Beyond considering the brightness or light output of each flashlight, you'll want to look for information about the beam distance. The value informs you about the distance that the light from the flashlight will reach. The measurement stops when the light produced by the flashlight reaches the equivalent level of output produced by a full moon.

The beam distance will vary between models. While some higher-lumen models will have a greater beam distance, the two values don't always go hand in hand. The angle and concentration of the beam can all impact the distance it'll reach. Manufacturers should list the beam distance for their products, making it easy to compare different models you're considering.

Adjustability: Many flashlights on the market have a fixed beam. For these models, the beam may be characterized as a flood or spot beam. As you may be able to guess, flood beams are wider to illuminate a greater area, while spot beams are more concentrated, much like a spotlight.

Some flashlights, however, offer adjustable beams. This means that users can modify the width of the beam, alternating between a more focused spotlight or a wider flood beam depending on their needs. Flashlights with such adjustability can offer more versatility than those that only offer one beam type.

Battery Life and Charge Time: Before getting too deep into your search for a new flashlight, you'll need to determine whether you want a rechargeable flashlight or one that operates using standard batteries. There are pros and cons to each type that you'll want to consider.

Nagle recommends rechargeable models. She says, "Rechargeable flashlights are eco-friendly and cost-effective in the long run. Look for models with USB charging capabilities for convenience." One downside of a rechargeable flashlight, however, is that if the batteries die when you're out, the flashlight will stop working. To combat this potential problem, Nagle shares, "it's always a good idea to carry a power bank or spare batteries for extended trips in case you can't recharge."

If you decide to purchase a rechargeable flashlight, pay attention to the battery life and charge time of the different models you're considering. Manufacturers state the run time for their products. Just note that the run time can vary between settings. High-lumen settings will drain the battery more quickly than those that aren't so bright. In addition to paying attention to the run time, take note of how long the battery will take to recharge and be ready for use.

Weather Protection: If you plan on using the flashlight you purchase for hiking, camping, or other outdoor activities, then you'll also want to consider weather protection. To evaluate how resistant a flashlight is to the elements, look at its IPX

rating. Benson explains, "IPX ratings tell us how well an item can withstand different types of water exposure. The IPX rating can determine how much water the unit can be exposed to, and the length of time it can survive the exposure." The second number in an IPX rating relates to how waterproof a flashlight is. Benson adds, "The lowest ratings have no water exposure protection, and the scale increases from dripping water all the way up to IPX8 that can be submerged in 1.5 m of freshwater up to 30 minutes."

The first digit of an IPX rating, which can range between X (meaning not tested) to 6, indicates the model's ability to resist solid matter. Those with a rating of 0 offer no protection against dirt and other debris, while those with a rating of 6 are "dust tight," meaning no dust particles will be able to penetrate the tool.

Additional Features: To help you land on the best flashlight to fit your needs, you should also think about whether or not there are any additional features you want to see in the model that you purchase. A few features you might want to look for include:

- **Impact Resistance:** Depending on how you plan to use the flashlight, you may want to prioritize looking for one with a higher impact resistance. Some models are tested by the manufacturer by dropping them and assessing the amount of damage the flashlight sustains.
- **Mount Options:** Mount options, such as clamps or clips, can make it possible for hands-free use.
- **Multiple Operating Modes:** Some models offer several operating modes. Beyond different brightness options, you may also find special settings, such as beacon lights or strobe settings for signaling for help.
- **Included Accessories:** Accessories are often sold separately but may be included with some models. Some to look for include lanyards, holsters, and lens filters.

How We Chose the Best Flashlights

We considered several criteria to help us choose our product recommendations for the best flashlights. In addition to considering information shared by professional

reviewers and everyday users, we also consulted Amanda Benson, Sheri Nagle, and Daniel Kilburn. Benson is a DIY repair and RV expert and the creator of the blog “[Dusty Trail RV](#).” Nagle is the creator of “[Sheri Nagle](#),” a blog about the outdoors and traveling. After taking the recommendations of these experts and reviewers into account, we sought to provide a comprehensive list of options to suit a range of needs and budgets. Kilburn is an urban disaster planning expert and the founder of [Emergency Action Planning LLC](#).

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Our contributors and editors have years of experience researching, testing, and reviewing products. The author of this piece, [Deirdre Mundorf](#), has five years of experience reviewing products and writing about the home and family niches. Additionally, she has bylines in various online publications, including House Digest, Discover Magazine, and USA Today. [Marlo Jappen Porto](#), the editor of this piece, is a U.S. News 360 Review editor on the home goods team.

FAQ

- How many lumens is best for a flashlight?

+
- How long do rechargeable flashlights last?

+
- Are flashlights waterproof?

+

About Our Team

Deirdre Mundorf

Contributor

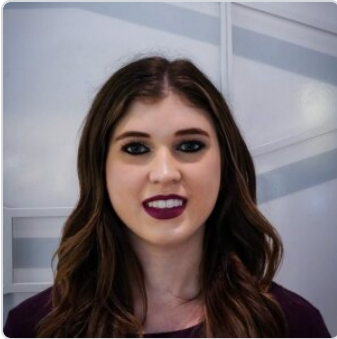


Mundorf is a freelance writer who specializes in home goods, family, and pet content. She has more than three years of



experience as a professional writer and her work has been featured in [Bob Vila](#), [Discover Magazine](#), and [House Digest](#). Prior to her freelancing career, Mundorf was an elementary school teacher for more than a decade.

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Marlo Jappen Porto

Former Editor



Marlo Jappen Porto is a former editor for U.S. News 360 Reviews, focusing on home goods. Prior to joining the team, she was a researcher at NBCUniversal, where she gathered compelling and relevant archival content for live broadcasts. In addition, she has spent years working as an editor and community journalist.

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