

## Battery-Powered Lanterns!



If safety is a major concern for you, a lantern with batteries may be the way to go. A battery-powered lantern is safer than any lantern with an open flame.

Electric lanterns using small LEDs use small batteries - but they do not produce a large amount of light. You can use the same batteries in them as you use for other electrical gear. Most LED lanterns use AAA, AA or C batteries.

Electric lanterns can use 9-watt fluorescent tubes and put out a LOT of light. This one uses 8 D-cell batteries - and uses them up quickly. If you owned this lantern, rechargeable batteries would be a good investment.

Old-school electric lanterns that use the bulky 9-volt lantern batteries are still practical lanterns. The one shown is an old railroad lantern, which works just as well as it did 60 years ago. Its incandescent bulbs are not as efficient as LEDs.

There are several features to look for in a good battery-powered lantern. First, it should have a good base so it will not tip over easily. Second, it needs a sturdy handle so you can carry it. Third, it needs a glass or plastic chimney or globe to protect the bulbs, tubes, or LEDs. Fourth, the light of the lantern should go out as close to 360° as possible, so the lantern is an area light instead of a flashlight.

Other useful features are a good, positive switch that cannot turn on by accident, a hook to hang up the lantern, a positive-locking battery compartment so batteries can't fall out, and a cranked dynamo to charge the batteries (found more often on small LED lanterns).

Running out of power IS a major problem. The answer is to have plenty of freshly charged batteries available. Battery-powered lanterns are NOT a good answer for long-term use, unless you have solar panels to charge batteries.

No solar-powered lantern is shown. I tried one in winter, and it could not produce enough electricity in the daytime to avoid running out of power at night.

You can trust a child to carry a battery-powered lantern.