

FUNKYGENE

LIGHTING TIPS FOR BETTER STREAMS

A practical guide to making your stream look cleaner and more intentional - without buying a room full of lights.

THE BIG IDEA

Good lighting is less about having the most expensive fixture and more about controlling where light comes from, how hard it is, and what the camera sees behind you.

1. START WITH ONE GOOD LIGHT

- **Put your main light slightly to one side of the camera, not directly overhead.** This creates shape in the face instead of a flat or shadowy look.
- **Raise it a little above eye level and angle it down.** You usually want natural-looking shadows rather than light coming from below.
- **Move the light before increasing brightness.** Distance and angle can change the image dramatically.
- **Make the source larger or softer when possible.** A softbox, umbrella, diffusion, or bounced light can be more flattering than a small bare LED.

2. USE THE ROOM BEFORE BUYING MORE GEAR

- Window light can be excellent. Face toward or slightly across a window instead of putting a bright window directly behind you.
- Turn off ugly overhead lighting if it creates dark eye sockets or mixed colors.
- A white wall can bounce light and create a softer source.
- Move the desk, camera, or subject if a different part of the room gives you better depth and background separation.

3. SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM THE BACKGROUND

One of the fastest ways to make a stream look more professional is to stop looking like you are pressed against the wall.

- Move yourself away from the background when space allows.
- Keep the background slightly darker than your face unless the creative look calls for something different.
- Use a practical lamp, small accent light, monitor glow, or controlled color in the background for depth.
- If you have another light, a subtle hair/rim light can help separate dark hair or clothing from a dark background.

4. WATCH YOUR COLOR

Problem	Quick check
Skin looks orange/blue	Check the camera white balance and whether different light sources have very different color temperatures.
Background color contaminates skin	Aim colored accent lights at the background, not directly into the face.
Image keeps changing	Auto white balance/exposure may be reacting during the stream. Consistent lighting makes manual settings easier.

5. A SIMPLE 3-LAYER LIGHTING PLAN

Layer 1 - Subject: Your main/key light makes the person, product, or workspace readable.

Layer 2 - Separation: A rim/hair light or careful placement helps keep the subject from blending into the background.

Layer 3 - Environment: Practical lamps, accent lights, signs, screens, or controlled color give the space personality.

You do not need all three layers to start. Get Layer 1 right first. Add complexity only when it improves the picture.

6. LIGHT FOR THE CAMERA, NOT JUST YOUR EYES

- Look at the actual camera feed in OBS, not just the room. Cameras see contrast differently than your eyes.
- Check your brightest areas. Foreheads, glasses, white shirts, screens and windows can become distracting highlights.
- Glasses reflecting the light? Change the height or angle of the fixture before giving up on the position.
- Do a short recording and watch it on a phone as well as your main monitor.

7. COMMON LIGHTING MISTAKES

- **Too much RGB:** Color can create personality, but covering everything in saturated color often makes skin and products look worse.
- **Bright background, dark face:** The camera exposes for the wrong thing and your subject disappears.
- **One tiny light at full power:** More brightness does not necessarily mean better quality.
- **Mixing every lamp in the room:** Different colors and directions can make the image harder to control.
- **Buying before testing:** Move the camera, subject, desk and lights you already own first.

THE 60-SECOND LIGHTING CHECK

- Can I clearly see the subject's eyes and face?
- Is anything in the frame much brighter than the subject?
- Does the skin tone look natural?
- Is the background helping the shot instead of distracting from it?
- Are glasses/screens creating distracting reflections?
- Does the shot still look good after a short test recording?

WHERE CUSTOM DESIGN MATTERS

A guide can show the principles, but the best placement depends on your room size, ceiling height, windows, camera position, lens, skin tones, products, existing fixtures and the mood you want. That is where a custom lighting plan becomes valuable.

WANT US TO LIGHT THE WHOLE SETUP?

FUNKYGENE can plan your camera position, lighting, audio, OBS and streaming workflow together so everything is designed as one system - using what you already own when it makes sense and recommending upgrades only where they matter.