

CERAMIC HEATER BULBS

I don't know how many of you brood your chicks with heat lamps, but if you do I want to share something that a friend of mine, Scott Brazinski, turned me on to. They're called Ceramic Reptile Heaters and are a replacement for incandescent heat lamp bulbs. They emit no light, only infrared heat, so they don't mess with chicks internal clocks and normal daylight and nighttime cycles.

These heaters screw into standard electric bulb sockets just like incandescent heater lamps. They have a nickel chrome heating element that has been encapsulated in a ceramic sleeve and aren't affect by corrosion or humidity. They last pretty long, according to one manufacturer they last for 25,000 hours, or about 20 times longer than regular heat lamps. They can be purchased in 60, 100, 150 and 250 watt sizes.

There are a couple of things to consider when using them though. First they can get very hot, so don't touch one and don't have it placed so your chicks can get to it either. The manufacturer suggests keeping a wire enclosure of some sort around it to help prevent that from happening. Secondly they also recommend not putting them in an enclosed environment, because of a fire risk from heat build up, but rather hanging them from above and away from things.

These heaters could be considered to be a bit on the pricey side. I have seen them in pet shops in the \$40-\$50 price range, but I've found them on line for less than half that price. However, if they last as long as claimed they are certainly worth thinking about. I've attached a couple of images of them so you can see what they look like.