

Compact Fluorescent Lights Save Energy, Time and Money

A wide variety of CFL bulbs from various companies are now available in different shapes and sizes, varied lighting intensity (40-100 watt equivalents) and warmer or cooler tones (soft or warm white is most like incandescent lights while cool white is more like sunlight). The appearance of CFLs varies from the 'twist' or 'pigs tail' bulb to ones that look like an incandescent bulb. They can be used in a wide variety of locations, from dimmable switches to interior and exterior floods.

Saving Energy

About 90% of the energy required to light an incandescent bulb is completely wasted in heat output rather than light! Although incandescent bulbs have been a good source of light since Thomas Edison invented them around 1880, CFL bulbs offer a better solution today.

CFLs use about 80% less energy than incandescent lights for the same light output. Overall, CFLs are one of the easiest and most effective ways to reduce energy use in your home or business.

A CFL light will obviously provide your highest energy savings in those places where the lights are left on for more than 1 or 2 hours at a time. Start your lighting savings quickly with replacing those most used bulbs with CFLs and moving the old inefficient bulbs to a seldom used location until it needs to be replaced.

Saving Time

CFL bulbs last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. In the lifespan of one CFL, you could end up replacing 10 incandescent lights. That means 9 fewer trips to the store and 9 fewer climbs up onto a chair to replace bulbs in hard-to-reach fixtures. It might make it worth your while to replace all lights that are above reachable height at this time and enjoy the carefree years ahead.

Saving Money

CFLs provide savings all over your home. CFLs that are on for 4 or more hours a day can pay for themselves in less than a year and thereafter pay you on the order of \$5-8 per year per bulb. Multiply that times 10 bulbs and you have a return on investment that is tough to beat.

Don't forget to replace those perennially burnt out holiday lights this year with CFL lights that will be ready to light up your holiday seasons for years to come.

A reminder when you finally need to dispose of a burned out CFL

Like the long fluorescent tubes that you've had in your kitchen or workshop for years, CFLs contain small amounts of mercury and must be disposed of properly. Although they have reduced the amount of mercury in the glass tube over the past 10 years, there is still a small amount that can and should be recycled rather than polluting the land and water under our landfill.

Environmentally, using CFLs rather than mercury free incandescent still reduces the amount of mercury entering the environment, because they help to reduce mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants. A coal-fired power plant emits approximately 13.6 milligrams of mercury to produce the electricity required to use an incandescent light bulb, compared to 3.3 milligrams for a CFL. Even considering the mercury in the fluorescent bulb, CFLs can provide a net reduction in the amount of mercury entering our environment.