

Compact Fluorescents - save money and prevent pollution

■ Comparisons ■ Efficiencies

One of the easiest retrofits that homeowners can do themselves is to switch from incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescents. While incandescent bulbs are inexpensive to purchase, they are inefficient and costly to operate.

With an incandescent bulb, for every \$1 you spend on electricity, you get about 10 cents worth of light and 90 cents worth of heat. The wasted energy increases lighting and air conditioning costs and is responsible for over 500 pounds of atmospheric pollution.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), also called lamps, are an alternative that is good for your pocketbook and the environment.

While CFLs cost more to buy than incandescents, they pay for themselves in energy savings. Because they last approximately 10,000 hours, compared to less than 1,000 for typical incandescents, you'll buy nine fewer CFLs. That also means less hassle changing light bulbs.







How does the light from CFLs compare with incandescent bulbs?

In most cases, the light from a CFL is just as bright and offers comparable colors and light quality. Look for a Color Rendering Index (CRI) of 80 or higher.

There are many new sizes of CFLs available. Some of them are nearly as small as an incandescent and will fit in most fixtures and table lamps. CFLs have the same screw-in base as incandescents. They are slightly larger than an incandescent bulb, but fit in many different types of fixtures.

When a CFL won't fit, "harp extenders" are often available to enable their use. CFLs can be used in virtually any fixture including recessed and track lighting, plus new dimmable CFL's are also available. There are CFLs for outdoor use, floods and spots.

The chart below shows how much you can save with CFLs. Of course, you're not only saving money, but stopping pollution and protecting the environment.

Bulb type Watts/Lumens*	Typical bulb cost dollars	Rated life in hours	Efficacy lumens per watt	Energy cost (@ 8¢/kwh) for 10,000 hrs.	Bulb(s) + Energy Cost for 10,000 hrs.
 Compact Fluorescent 15 watt/720 Lumens	\$4	10,000	48	\$12	\$16
 Incandescent 60 watt/870 Lumens	\$0.50	1,000	15	\$48	\$53
 Compact Fluorescent 20 watt/1,200 Lumens	\$5	10,000	60	\$16	\$21
 Incandescent 75 watt/1,210 Lumens	\$0.50	1,000	16	\$60	\$65
 Compact Fluorescent 27 watt/1,750 Lumens	\$8	10,000	64	\$22	\$30
 Incandescent 100 watt/1,750 Lumens	\$0.50	750	17	\$80	\$85

*Lumens: measure of the brightness emitted by a bulb