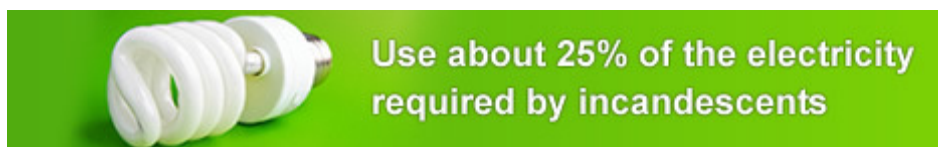




GreenTip
How Do You Measure Up?

"Green" Lights: Save Energy and \$'s with CFL's

The standard incandescent light bulbs that we've all used in our homes for so long are fast becoming obsolete. 95% of the energy these bulbs use goes to heating the bulb, not to producing light. Switching over to compact fluorescent light lamps or bulbs (CFL's) is practically a no-brainer. CFL's use about 25% of the electricity required by incandescents, produce about 75% less heat, and last up to 10 times longer! Here are some pointers to consider when purchasing, using and disposing of CFL's.



Choose the Right Light:

- Look for the US government's EnergyStar seal on the package to get the most efficient CFL's for your home.
- CFL's work best in light fixtures that allow airflow, such as table and floor lamps, wall sconces, pendants and chandeliers and outdoor fixtures.
- Use CFL's in fixtures that are used at least 15 minutes at a time or several hours a day. If on/off cycling of the light fixture happens often, the expected lifespan of the CFL can be greatly reduced. For example, closet fixtures are generally only switched on for a minute or two at a time, and therefore are not the ideal locations for using CFL's.
- If you intend to install CFL's in a fixture that uses a dimmer switch, be sure to purchase CFL's that are specifically designed for that purpose. If you use a standard CFL with a dimmer switch, the life of the bulb will be reduced significantly.
- If you intend to install CFL's in outdoor fixtures, be sure to purchase bulbs that are suited for outdoor use. CFL's in use out of doors should be covered to prevent direct exposure to the elements. Also be aware that cold temperatures may reduce the light level produced by these bulbs.
- CFL's come in a variety of shapes that are ideal for many applications. Standard lamps most closely resemble incandescent bulbs. Globe lamps are typically used for bathroom vanities, hanging lamps and bare bulb fixtures. Flood lamps are made for indoor and outdoor use – check the package to choose the correct bulb for your intended use. Candelabra bulbs are designed to replace decorative bulbs in chandeliers and sconces. Some CFL's are made with built-in reflectors, so that they are ideal for use in recessed light fixtures.
- CFL's are manufactured with lumen ratings designed to replace specific incandescent sizes. The following table provides a comparison between the wattage of standard incandescent bulbs to that of CFL's.

Incandescent	Minimum	Compact Fluorescent
Light Bulb	Light Output	Lamp
Watts	Lumens	Watts
40	450	9 to 13
60	800	13 to 15
75	1,100	18 to 25
100	1,600	23 to 30
150	2,600	30 to 52

Proper Handling and Disposal of CFL's:

CFL's contain a small amount of mercury, and, as a result, are considered to be household hazardous waste. It is best to ensure that the bulbs remain unbroken, and to dispose of them through the residential HHW program, not in your regular trash. To find out how Guilford County residents can drop off CFL's and other household hazardous waste safely, easily and at no charge go to the link below.

http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/planning_cms/disposal.html#Household%20Hazardous%20Waste.

In addition, Home Depot stores are now providing free recycling of CFL's at all of their locations. Customers may take their CFL's to the drop-off container located at the RETURN desk inside the store entrance. Remember, one important benefit of reducing electricity use with CFL's is reducing the amount of mercury that is released into the atmosphere by power plants as they produce electricity. When you dispose of CFL's improperly, you may be allowing the mercury they contain to be released back into the environment.

If you break a CFL, the EPA recommends that you take the following precautions. First, open windows to ventilate the space and leave the room for at least 15 minutes. Use a damp rag or paper towel to clean it up and place all of the pieces, including the rag or paper towel, into a sealable plastic bag. Place the sealed plastic bag into a second sealable bag. Wash your hands thoroughly after cleaning up the broken bulb.

For more information on CFL's, check out the following links:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=cfls.pr_cfls

http://www.eartheasy.com/live_energyeff_lighting.htm

<http://www.lowimpactliving.com/pages/green-projects/lighting>