Energy-efficient lighting at home

Reduce your costs by selecting ENERGY STAR® qualified bulbs

The cost of lighting your home comprises a significant portion of your electric bill. You can reduce your home's lighting energy costs significantly by selecting ENERGY STAR® qualified light bulbs.

Select the best bulb

Compact fluorescent lights replace standard incandescent lights and are designed to save you money. CFLs last seven to 10 times longer and save you money by using less energy compared to a standard light bulb. CFLs are available in a variety of styles and sizes for indoor and outdoor lighting uses, so it is important to select the appropriate bulb.

While the initial cost of an incandescent bulb is low, it is expensive to operate. Only about 10 percent of the energy used produces light. The other 90 percent turns into heat, which can increase your air conditioning costs. By using efficient ENERGY STAR® qualified lighting, you not only save money on your lighting, but also help reduce your summer cooling costs.

Watts and lumens

A watt is the standard unit of measurement of electricity. You pay for the watts used, so the higher the watts used, the more you pay.

A lumen is the amount of light given out from a light source. The higher the lumens, the brighter the light.

Actual lumens and wattages may vary, so you should check the package for details. The following compares standard incandescent lights to ENERGY STAR® qualified CFLs:*

For example, if you replace a 60-watt incandescent with a...

- *30-watt CFL, you will save 50 percent in operating costs, with double the light output (800-1,600 lumens).*
- *15-watt CFL, you will save 75 percent in operating costs, with the same light output (800 lumens).*

Never install a bulb with a wattage that exceeds the maximum indicated on the lighting fixture's label.

Incandescent Light Bulbs Watts	**Light Output** Lumens	**Common ENERGY STAR® Qualified CFL** Watts
60	800	13-15
75	1,100	18-25
100	1,600	23 30

*From www.energystar.gov

Lighting tips

- *Turn off lights when not in use.*
- *Use "task" lighting wherever possible, and focus the light right where it's needed.*
- *Replace the five lights in your home that are most frequently used the longest periods with ENERGY STAR® qualified lighting for the most effective energy costs. These may be light bulbs in your kitchen, living room, dining room or bedrooms.*
- *CFLs perform best in open fixtures that allow airflow such as table/floor lamps, wall sconces and pendants. Use reflector CFLs (not spiral CFLs) for recessed fixtures.*
- *Most CFLs cannot be used with dimmers, so buy "Energy Miser" type incandescent bulbs, which use 5-13 percent less energy, in areas with dimmers.*
- *Use linear, tube type, fluorescent light fixtures in kitchens, work areas, garages and basements.*
- *Use CFL floodlights, metal halide or high-pressure sodium lights for outdoor lighting.*
- *Install occupancy sensors, timers or motion sensors in areas where lighting is left on when unoccupied but should be turned off.*
- *Never install a bulb with a wattage that exceeds the maximum indicated on the lighting fixture's label.*

CFL disposal

CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, so they should not be disposed of in regular household garbage.

Residents of Lincoln-Lancaster County can bring CFLs to a household hazardous waste collection. For a schedule, call the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 402.441.8021 or visit the "Household Waste Concerns" page on www.lincoln.ne.gov and search "household."

For cleanup guidelines for broken CFLs, visit www.energystar.gov and search "broken CFL."

LES supports energy conservation because energy efficiency reduces the need for LES to generate higher-priced power and keeps rates low for all customers.

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