

An added bonus is that CFLs are safer than incandescent bulbs — they're cool to the touch and are less likely to cause burns or fires.

Do you have complicated or hard to reach light fixtures? CFLs can last 10,000 hours — 8 to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, which means a lot less labor and time spent on ladders and chairs.

For each incandescent bulb you replace with a CFL, you can save approximately 100 to 1250 pounds of CO₂ from being added to the atmosphere during the life of the bulb. If every household in the U.S. replaced one light bulb with an energy star qualified compact fluorescent bulb, it would prevent enough pollution to equal removing one million cars from the road.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs are a gift that keeps on giving in money saved. Each bulb can save you over \$50 (or E16) throughout the life of the bulb in energy costs. That's because CFLs use 75% less energy and produce 90% less heat than incandescent bulbs.

Compact Fluorescent Bulb Facts

CFL Wattage Equivalents

25W CFL = 60W reg. bulb
 20W CFL = 75W reg. bulb
 29W CFL = 100W reg. bulb
 40W CFL = 150W reg. bulb
 55W CFL = 250-300W bulb

To get the most energy savings, replace bulbs where lights are on the most, such as your family and living rooms, kitchen, dining room and porch.

Some CFLs have trouble operating in enclosed fixtures. Check the CFL packaging for any restrictions on use.

Environmental Concerns and Safe Disposal of CFL Bulbs

Compact fluorescent bulbs contain trace amounts of mercury and some environmentally conscious people fear that the bulbs will do more damage to the environment than incandescent bulbs, but according to answers.com:

Coal power plants are the single largest source of mercury emissions into the environment. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), (when coal power is used) the mercury released from powering an incandescent bulb for five years exceeds the sum of the mercury released by powering a comparably luminous CFL for the same period and the mercury contained in the lamp.

However, with proper disposal there is no threat and we actually see a savings in mercury output. Please note that mercury poses no threat while in the bulb, but if the bulb breaks take the following precautions: Take care not to inhale the fumes from the mercury, open windows if indoors. Use a wet rag or disposable cloth to wipe up all mercury and glass taking care not to get it on your skin. Place all waste into a plastic bag and contact your local recycling center.

The Gift of Light



To:
 From: