

Energy Smart Tips : Lighting



Artificial lighting consumes almost 15% of a household's electricity use. Typical compact fluorescent bulbs use 66% to 75% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and lasts about 6 to 15 times longer (6,000 to 15,000 hours) roughly five to seven years of service. Compact fluorescents are a cooler, more efficient light sources.

I've seen compact fluorescent bulbs in stores and they seem quite expensive - will they really save me money?

Although the initial cost is quite a bit more than the standard incandescent bulbs, they last up to 10 times as long and use only about a quarter of the amount of light. Depending on your budget, you can replace bulbs which burn the most hours in your home. These are often hallway lights, kitchen lights and porch (outside) lights. It's also common to begin with bulbs which are difficult to change (high ceilings, etc.)

Is it difficult to switch to compact fluorescents?

No, it's simple. In the vast majority of conversions, it's as easy as screwing in a new light bulb. In some instances, recessed lighting may require the base to be adjusted or extended. It depends on the reflector and the original adjustment of the base in most cases.

Do compact fluorescents flicker?

The better compact fluorescents produce no noticeable flicker. Lesser quality fluorescents may flicker or delay a bit at startup.

What wattage should I buy?

If you're replacing a 40 watt incandescent bulb, use a 9 to 10 watt compact fluorescent. If you're replacing a 60 watt incandescent, use a 13 to 18 watt fluorescent. If you're replacing a 75 watt incandescent, use a 19 to 24 watt fluorescent and if you're replacing a 100 watt incandescent, use a 25 to 30 watt fluorescent.

Do the "energy miser" or "energy saver" type of incandescent bulbs save as much as compact fluorescents?

No, but they do use less than standard incandescents, so they are a good option in fixtures that will not accept compact fluorescents. They also last longer than standard incandescents, but nowhere near as long as compact fluorescents.

Does outdoor lighting consume a lot of energy, and how can I save while protecting my home and property?

Consumption will depend on the wattage of the lights and hours of operation. Since outdoor security lights are typically incandescent and higher in wattage than indoor lights, the cost can be significant, particularly if a large number of high-wattage lights are used. You can save by limiting the hours of operation with timers, photocells or motion detectors. Compact fluorescents are available for outdoor use and usually fit standard outdoor light sockets.

Security is a big issue for me, are there any other ways of adding outdoor security lights?

For a monthly fee, CUC can install and maintain proper security lights on or near your property. Contact us or visit our website for more information on this valuable service.

In terms of safety, are compact fluorescents less likely to cause burns when in use?

Compact fluorescents usually operate at less than 100°F compared with typical halogen lamps which can burn at 1,000°F. Due to their high heat output, halogens can cause burns and fires. In typical incandescent bulbs, only 5% of the energy that goes into these bulbs come out as light. The remaining 95% becomes heat. In most cases, compact fluorescents are cool to the touch.

Apart from saving money and energy by purchasing compact fluorescents, what other advantages do these bulbs possess?

If you are concerned for the environment, as we all should be, then compact fluorescents are the environmentally responsible choice. Replacing a single incandescent bulb with an energy saving compact fluorescent bulb reduces carbon monoxide and other emissions that are harmful to the atmosphere.



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