



Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) Fact Sheet

Do the Bright Thing

- Each bulb saves about \$30 or more in energy costs over its lifetime, despite the higher purchase price.
- CFLs use up to 75% less energy to produce the same amount of light.
- CFLs last up to 10 times longer (10,000 compared to 1,000 hours for incandescent bulbs).
- CFL lifetime is based on approximately three hours of usage per day for nine years, therefore they do not have to be replaced as frequently.
- CFLs produce 70% less heat than incandescent bulbs.
- CFLs are available in different sizes/shapes to fit almost any fixture, indoors or outdoors.

When Purchasing

Look for the ENERGY STAR label which guarantees the CFL bulb has met certain energy-efficiency guidelines. Match the right CFL type to the right kind of fixture to help ensure that it will perform properly and last longer. Replace bulbs where lights typically burn the most hours (hallway, living room, kitchen, porch lights). CFLs work best in open fixtures that allow air flow.

Check the CFL's packaging for any restrictions in use. For example, fixtures that are connected to a dimmer, light sensor or three-way switch require CFLs that are suited to those applications. For recessed fixtures, it is better to use a reflector CFL than a spiral, since the design of the reflector evenly distributes the light down to your task area. To get the bulb with the right amount of light, choose one that offers the same lumen rating as the bulb you are replacing. The higher the lumen rating, the greater the light output. Choose the color that works best for you.

Cost Savings

- Lighting accounts for 20% of the average home's electric bills.
- The average U.S. household has more than 40 sockets for lights in their home. If five incandescent light bulbs that burn three hours a day are replaced with ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs, the average savings could be 2,813 kWh or about \$225 in electricity costs, over the lifetime of the CFLs.

Where the CFL Bulbs Are Made

The CFLs provided by your local cooperative were made in China. All CFL bulbs are made overseas. TCP is the company which manufactured our bulbs, and they own operations in China and the United States.



Environmental Benefits

The environmental benefits of Dairyland Power Cooperative distributing 290,000 CFLs to participating distribution cooperatives include*:

- Reducing carbon dioxide by over 250 million pounds, the equivalent of removing more than 21,800 cars from the road for a year or planting more than 31,000 acres of forest.
- Saving the Dairyland Power Cooperative system members more than \$20 million in energy costs over the life cycle of the bulbs and reducing demand by almost eight megawatts.

*Assumptions: replacing a 75-watt bulb with a 19-watt CFL; 3 hrs/day 365 days per year; 9.7¢ kWh rate

How to Clean-up a Broken Bulb

Fluorescent light bulbs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. EPA recommends the following clean-up and disposal guidelines:

Vent the Room

- Open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes or more.
- Shut off the central forced-air heating/air conditioning system, if you have one.

Clean-Up Steps for Hard Surfaces

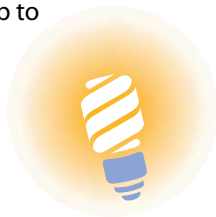
- Carefully scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a sealed plastic bag.
- Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder.
- Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes and place them in the plastic bag.
- Do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up the broken bulb on hard surfaces.

Clean-up Steps for Carpeting or Rug

- Carefully pick up glass fragments and place them in a sealed plastic bag.
- Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder.
- If vacuuming is needed after all visible materials are removed, vacuum the area where the bulb was broken.
- Remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister) and put the bag or vacuum debris in a sealed plastic bag. Ask your cooperative if they have a RECYCLEPAK pail or where the local recycling centers are located. If your bulb was mailed to you and it was broken, contact the cooperative for a replacement.

Disposing of CFL Bulbs After the 9-Year Life Cycle

Properly dispose of a burned out CFL by bringing the bulb to a recycling center. Your cooperative may have a RECYCLEPAK pail at their facility. Minnesota law prohibits the disposal of fluorescent bulbs in household garbage. In Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois, compact fluorescent bulbs for home use are not legally considered hazardous waste according to federal solid waste rules, but it is still best for the environment to recycle CFLs.



For More Information

U.S. Department of Energy - www.energy.gov

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives –


www.touchstoneenergy.cooperative

Dairyland Power Cooperative – www.dairyland.net

Sources: ENERGY STAR, EPA, Service Concepts

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Light Years Ahead

2007 Energy Independence and Security Act mandates that light bulbs be 25-30% more efficient by 2014 and 70% more efficient by 2020. CFLs meet those standards today!



Bulbs That Fail Before the 9-Year Life Cycle Ends

Call the manufacturer's 800 number listed on the ballast (1.800.771.9335) and they will send a replacement bulb. You may want to write the date the CFL is installed on the base of the lamp with a permanent marker.

Change a Light Pledge

Take the pledge to change at least one light in your home with an ENERGY STAR CFL bulb and get involved in the national ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World Campaign by visiting: www.energystar.gov/changealight

Mercury

CFLs contain a small amount of mercury (about 4 mg), which is roughly equivalent to an amount that would cover the tip of a ball point pen. By comparison, an older home thermometer contains 500 milligrams of mercury. Power produced from coal to supply an average 100-watt incandescent bulb three hours a day for five years will release 10 mg of mercury into the environment, compared to 2 mg of mercury to power a 19-watt CFL for the same period.