



Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs)





Why should you use CFLs?

- If every home in the US replaced just one traditional incandescent bulb with a CFL, it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to more than 800,000 cars annually.
- **Using CFLs prevents pollution and saves you money on energy costs!**
- CFL's use about 1/4 the electricity that traditional light bulbs require. To produce this electricity, power generating plants burn coal which releases carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere. Increasing CO₂ in the air contributes to the green house effect and climate destabilization/global warming.
- CFLs are slightly more expensive (around \$2/bulb) than traditional incandescent bulbs but last up 9 years and use less energy. Since you're replacing the bulbs less often and saving on electric bills, the upfront cost is minimal compared to the money you will save!

What are CFLs?

- Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are a type of light bulb that can replace your traditional incandescent light bulbs in order to **reduce energy use at your home (saving you money) and prevent pollution.**
- **You can make a difference** and help the environment by taking a small step and replacing the light bulbs in your home with the appropriate CFLs!
- CFLs can be purchased at most local hardware/home stores.

Information on the CFL you're purchasing today:

- This 14 watt CFL  will replace a traditional 60 watt incandescent bulb 
- It is a soft white, non-dimmable light that will last up to 9 years
- If you put this CFL in a highly used area (about 3 hours a day for the life of the bulb), you can save over \$40 in energy costs for that one lamp
- **Make sure you follow the use and disposal rules** on the next page or see www.lamprecycle.org or call 1-800-378-6998.

Keep in mind- if used correctly, these bulbs will last up to 9 years so you won't need to worry about disposal for a while!

Resources

- Monroe County Department of Hazardous Waste 753-7600
- www.energystar.gov
- www.earth911.org

Frequently asked questions about CFLs

- ***The CFL doesn't look as bright as my old light bulb?***

CFLs may initially require a few minutes to warm up and to reach their brightest.

- ***Are there other types of CFLs?***

Yes- you can find a variety of CFLs at stores or online.

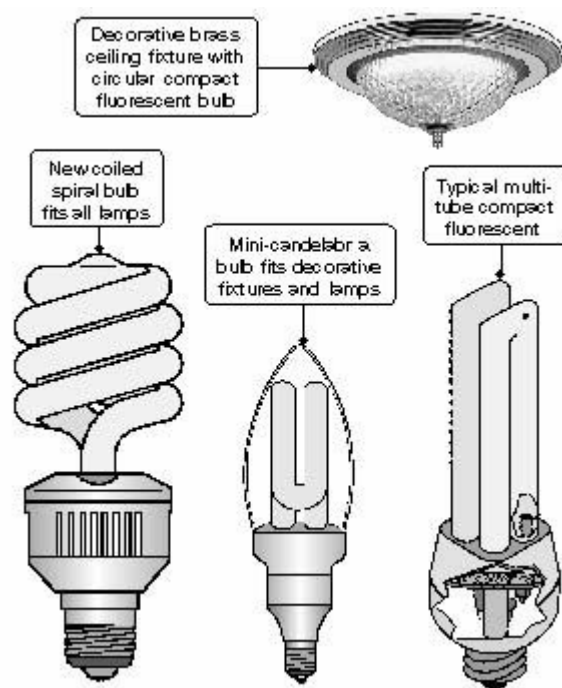
Make sure you use the correct type of CFL for the fixture (dimming, three-way, exterior, high/low wattage, etc..)

- ***Where should I use CFLs?***

Use appropriate type of CFL in areas of the home that are often used to get the most benefits (hallways, kitchens, living rooms, etc...).

- ***Will I really save money and help the environment by using CFLs?***

Yes-Since lighting accounts for about 20% of your electric bill, you will quickly see savings by switching to CFLs. By reducing the amount of electricity used in your home, you will reduce the amount of coal that is required to power your home which will cut down on CO2 emissions. Do your part in saving the environment!



Use and disposal rules when you're using CFLs

- Be sure to note the watt equivalence and type of lamp to select the appropriate CFL.
- CFLs contain a small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing- about 5 milligrams (keep in mind old thermometers contained about 500 milligrams of mercury). You are not exposed to the mercury with regular use and safe disposal of CFLs.
- **You must follow these steps when disposing of CFLs because of the mercury:**
 - *Keep in mind- if a CFL breaks, mercury is a small but critical risk in contrast to the good CFLs can contribute to addressing the bigger climate crisis that is upon us because of carbon emissions!*
 - Dispose of old CFLs at the Monroe County Hazardous Waste facility for free. You need to make an appointment before you go (call 753-7600).
 - If you break a CFL,
 - open a window and leave the room for at least 15 minutes.
 - remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner.
 - wear disposable rubber gloves and scoop up the fragments with cardboard.
 - sticky tape can be used to pick up remaining smaller pieces.
 - place all cleanup materials in a plastic bag and seal it.
 - dispose of bag at the Monroe County hazardous waste facility.