

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Why we care

Lighting is the third largest user of electricity in the home after space and water heating. Replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents (CFLs) is one of the easiest things we can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. If every American replaced just one standard light bulb with a CFL, we would prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing more than 800,000 cars from the road. CFLs use about 1/3 the electricity as standard bulbs and last up to 10 times as long.

Simple, positive change

- Be aware of the limitations of CFLs. They don't fit in all sockets, they don't last as long in an enclosed fixture, and some don't reach their full brightness instantly. Dimmer or three-way switches require a specific type of CFL.
- Turning CFLs on and off frequently lessens their life expectancy. Put them in fixtures that will be left on 15 minutes or more.
- Some brands are better than others. If your bulb wears out quickly, take it back to the store for a refund.
- Purchase high-quality bulbs with the brightness and color you desire. For displays go to:
 - Globe Lighting, 1919 NW 19th, Portland
 - Sunlan, 3901 N Mississippi, Portland
 - Pacific Lamp Wholesale, 10725 SW 5th, Beaverton
 - Earth Advantage Center, 16280 SW Upper Boones Ferry Rd., Tualatin
- Recycle your bulbs at a Home Depot store or your closest transfer station because of the mercury content.
- For more information, see www.energystar.gov/index.

Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at info@earthleaders.org.