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## **Frequently Asked Questions About Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs**

### ***What is a compact fluorescent light bulb?***

A compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) is a fluorescent light bulb made to be used in the same manner that incandescent light bulbs have been used traditionally. CFLs use a different, more advanced technology than incandescent light bulbs. CFLs create light by warming a gas that is held within its tubes, whereas a standard bulb uses energy to heat a wire that produces light.

### ***What are the benefits of replacing standard incandescent light bulbs with ENERGY STAR® qualified CFLs?***

ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs provide warm, steady, inviting light while using up to 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs. Using less energy reduces the amount of fossil fuels burned at your local power plant to produce electricity. This prevents pollution and combats global climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Less energy used also means more money saved. In addition, ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, saving time buying and replacing bulbs, as well as energy and money.

### ***Will ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs fit into my existing fixtures?***

ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, so they can replace regular incandescent bulbs in almost any fixture. Additionally, there are dimmable and three-way CFLs available.

### ***How do I select the right CFL for the amount of light I need?***

ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs provide the same amount of light as incandescent bulbs, but have a lower wattage rating. This means they use less energy. When comparing CFLs to incandescents, compare the light output, or lumens, and not watts. Residents can find the lumens on product packaging.

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Use the table below to find the lumen or light output range for the most popular residential incandescent bulbs.

<b>Incandescent Bulb (Watts)</b>	<b>Typical Lumens (Measure of Light Output)</b>
40	> 450
60	> 800
75	> 1,100
100	> 1,600
150	> 2,600

***Where can I buy ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs?***

During the “Change a Light, Change Wisconsin” campaign Wisconsin residents can purchase CFLs for as little as \$0.99 at select retail locations including ACE Hardware, Menards, Mills Fleet Farm, True Value Hardware, Do It Best and ShopKo. ENERGY STAR qualified lighting products can also be found at home improvement stores, hardware and grocery stores and independent and regional retailers. To find a store near you, visit [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com) or call 800.762.7077.

***How much do ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs cost?***

CFL prices range from \$4 to \$15, but save about \$30 per bulb in energy costs over their lifetime, which more than offsets the initial cost. The more bulbs replaced, the more money saved.

***Do ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs come with a guarantee?***

Yes. ENERGY STAR qualified light bulbs come with a minimum one-year manufacturer warranty – most manufacturers offer a warranty that covers the lifetime of the product.

***Who makes ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs?***

The same manufacturers that you already know – including GE, Panasonic, Osram Sylvania, Philips and Westinghouse – manufacture ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs, along with some manufacturers you may not know yet, such as Feit, Greenlite, MaxLite, SunPark, Technical Consumer Products and more.

***Don't CFLs contain mercury?***

CFLs do contain a miniscule amount of mercury – roughly four milligrams, or an amount the size of the period at the end of this sentence. (By comparison, a watch battery can contain up to 25 milligrams of mercury.) Using the bulbs poses no harm to residents. In fact, the biggest source of mercury in our air comes from burning coal to produce electricity, and because incandescent bulbs require more electricity than CFLs, they are actually responsible for more mercury emissions. A power plant will emit 10 milligrams of mercury producing electricity to light an incandescent bulb, but only 2.4 milligrams of mercury to light a CFL for the same amount of time.

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***What do I do with a burned-out or broken CFL?***

Every product containing mercury should be handled with care, so always dispose of CFLs properly.

- Recycle burned-out CFLs whenever possible. (Check with a local recycling company.)
- If recycling is not an option, place the burned-out CFL in a sealed plastic bag and dispose of it with the regular trash.
- If a CFL accidentally breaks, clean it up quickly using a broom and a disposable paper towel and put the materials in a sealed plastic bag for proper disposal. Also, open nearby windows to disperse any vapor that may have escaped from the broken bulb.

For more information about ENERGY STAR qualified products, including the names of area retailers, call Focus on Energy at 800.762.7077 or visit [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com).

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