



DIY FOR 2010



All You Need to Know About Installing CFLs:

Did you know lighting consumes 10 – 15% of the electricity in the average household? CFL's (compact fluorescent light bulbs) are energy saving bulbs that replace your standard incandescent light bulbs. These light bulbs use up to 75% less electricity than a standard bulb uses while still emitting equal amounts of light. If you have tried CFL's in the past and were disappointed with their performance (flickering, buzzing, unconventional shapes), then it is time to revisit this quality energy-saving technology!

CFL's come in a wide variety of styles and shapes to suit most of your home's lighting needs. CFL's also come in a wide array of wattages, three ways, dimmable, spot and can lighting, candelabra, globes, and even shapes that replicate a standard incandescent bulb for clip on lamp shade applications. CFLs last 6 to 10 times longer than your traditional incandescent light bulbs, too!

Not only is installing CFLs a quick and easy process, but by switching to CFLs you will also reduce your lighting energy costs dramatically as well as help keep our environment clean for future generations.



The tools you will need:

1. As many CFLs as you wish to install and your own two hands. Alright, you may need a step stool or ladder to reach some of your fixtures.

Steps for installing a CFL in your home:

1. Before purchasing CFLs at your local hardware store, take a tour through your house and count the number of light sockets. You can either buy CFLs for each light socket, or you can choose to replace your most commonly used standard light bulbs. Commonly used light bulbs are generally in the kitchen, living rooms, hallways, and bathrooms. Take note of the varieties and styles so you can properly match your lighting needs.
2. At the hardware, lighting, or home center stores you will notice the variety of CFLs available. Based upon personal preference, you will need to choose between warm (2700K), cool (3500 – 4100K), and bright (5000K) - shades as well as different shapes and sizes. If you have a dimmable switch in your house and are replacing the corresponding light bulb, then be sure to buy a dimmable CFL for that light socket. Non-dimmable CFL's will not dim properly in dimmable fixtures.

NOTE: You will notice that the wattage for CFLs varies greatly from the wattage of incandescent bulbs. Follow the chart below for guidance in replacing the CFL with the correct wattage.

LIGHT OUTPUT EQUIVALENCY		
To determine which ENERGY STAR qualified light bulbs will provide the same amount of light as your current incandescent light bulbs, consult the following chart:		
INCANDESCENT LIGHT BULBS	MINIMUM LIGHT OUTPUT	COMMON ENERGY STAR QUALIFIED LIGHT BULBS
WATTS	LUMENS	WATTS
40	450	9-13
60	800	13-15
75	1,100	18-25
100	1,600	23-30
150	2,600	30-52

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- Installation of a CFL is just like the installation of an incandescent bulb. Unscrew the incandescent bulb counter clock-wise and put it aside. Remove the CFL from its package and screw it into the light socket in a clock-wise direction.
- Repeat the process until every CFL has been installed.
- Please recycle the plastic packages that the CFLs came out of. In addition to reducing our electricity consumption, it is always a nice idea to recycle and reduce landfill waste.

Getting the most out of your CFL:

- CFLs require a break in period ranging from 1-2 hours. This will allow the phosphorous and mercury vapor (less than 4mg) to fully activate and also enhances the color of the emitted light.
- To maximize the lifetime savings and effectiveness of your CFL, keep it turned on continuously for increments of 15 minutes or more.
- For the indoors, install the CFL in open fixtures when possible. Installing a CFL in a closed fixture is fine however, it creates a hot environment can reduce the CFL's lifetime.
- For the outdoors, install the CFL in an enclosed fixture when possible. This will allow trapped heat to help your CFL come to full brightness much quicker in cold environs. Check the packaging for optimal operating temperatures.

Now, that was easy! According to the EPA, "If every household in the U.S. replaced one light bulb with an Energy Star qualified CFL, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, about \$700 million in annual energy costs, and prevent 9 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions per year, equivalent to the emissions of about 800,000 cars." By installing CFLs in your home, you have done your part to reduce carbon emissions. You will also reduce your electric consumption and put cash back in your pocket!

