



Lighten Up With CFLs

Your Energy Bill Will Be Lighter Too!

You've probably seen Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) in your local home improvement store or discount store. While CFLs may look unconventional, they can bring real savings to your home lighting costs. The amount of savings differs between types and brands of CFLs. ENERGY STAR® rated CFLs can last up to 10,000 hours and save \$25 to \$45 in energy costs over the life of the bulb. The advantages of CFLs include:

CFLs typically use about one-third to one-quarter the amount of energy used by the equivalent incandescent light bulbs.

While CFLs cost more to purchase, if you figure the total cost over the life of the bulb, you can save significant money versus replacing traditional incandescent light bulbs more frequently.

CFLs are more convenient for hard-to-reach places in your home because they last so much longer and require less frequent replacing. With a CFL, you may only need to replace hard-to-reach bulbs every two to four years!

For more information on CFLs, contact your community-owned electric utility...a member of the OMPA power supply program.



Use the following tips year-round to decrease your electric usage and your monthly electric bill.

In the summer, keep your thermostat no lower than 78°. Each additional degree below 78° adds about three percent to your energy costs.

In the winter, keep your thermostat set to 68-72°. Heat pumps operate differently than other heating systems, so follow the correct tips for your home heating system.

Limit the use of portable space heaters.

If you use a window air conditioner, seal all cracks and open areas around the unit. Check the filter regularly and clean or replace the filter when needed.

Use fans instead of, or in addition to, air conditioning.

Weatherstrip your doors, caulk cracks in the door frames and replace worn or ill-fitting thresholds.

Consider Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs). CFLs use a fraction of the energy of traditional incandescent light bulbs and last up to ten times longer. Also, CFLs do not release as much heat as incandescent light bulbs. CFLs are available in home improvement stores and most discount stores in the lighting section.

Avoid using appliances such as the washing machine, dryer and dishwasher during peak electric usage times (normally between 3 pm and 8 pm). Daytime hours have the highest demand for electricity, so wait until the evening hours, when temperatures are lower, to run energy-guzzling appliances.

Purchase energy-efficient products when replacing appliances and heating and cooling equipment. Look for ENERGY STAR® products.

For more information about saving electricity and saving money on your electric bill, contact your community-owned electric utility...a member of the OMPA power supply program.