



ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING FOR YOUR HOME

GOOD INDOOR LIGHTING ADDS WARMTH AND SPARKLE TO ANY ROOM. TODAY'S NEW LIGHTING PRODUCTS AND LIGHTING CONTROLS LET YOU KEEP THAT CHARM AND SAVE MONEY, TOO.

Incandescent light bulbs have been around for more than 100 years, and most of us love them for their mellow, warm light. But the fact remains that they are, to put it bluntly, energy hogs.

Less than 10 per cent of the energy consumed by an incandescent bulb is used for lighting. The remaining 90 per cent simply goes to waste in the form of heat (making an incandescent bulb essentially a small heater that gives off a little light). But there are new alternatives on the market today that do a terrific job of recreating the ambiance of incandescents, while consuming a fraction of the energy and lasting much longer—saving you money both on your energy bills and on replacement costs.

Combine those new bulbs (or even your old ones) with the latest in energy-efficient fixtures and lighting controls, including dimmers and timers, and you'll be well on your way to terrific energy savings.

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHTING

An ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) uses about 75 per cent less energy than a standard incandescent bulb to produce the same amount of light—and it will last up to eight times as long: an average of 8,000 hours compared with fewer than 1,000 hours for an incandescent bulb.

What does that mean in real life? It means that as soon as you install a CFL, you'll be using a quarter of the energy you used to in that spot, and that you'll need to buy only one CFL for every eight incandescents you used to—adding up to fewer trips to the store and, even though they cost more upfront than incandescents, more money in your pocket over time.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT CFL

CFLs now come in a variety of shapes, colours and configurations to fit pretty well any light fixture you've now got in your home, including table lamps, chandeliers and pot lights. But since they do cost more, you'll want to be very careful that you choose the right CFL for each fixture in your home.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PAYS

Replacing just five bulbs with CFLs in areas that require more than three hours of light a day will save you about \$20 a year.

JUST SO YOU KNOW ...

While CFLs will help you save energy in any location, frequent switching on and off can shorten a CFL's life. To take full advantage of the energy savings and long life of CFLs, we suggest you start by using them in light fixtures that are usually left on for at least 15 minutes at a time.

CFLs do contain a small amount of mercury—less than four milligrams or about one-fifth of what's in an average watch battery. That means you will need to recycle them when they finally wear out.

Visit bchydro.com for a list of BC retailers who will accept your old CFLs for recycling.

Here are a few tips:

Decide which colour you prefer:

- CFLs come in a range of colours, from warm, yellow tones similar to incandescents, to cooler, brighter whites (good for kitchens and workspaces) and even blues (these bulbs are the closest to daylight, and many people like them for reading).

Colour in lighting is measured on the Kelvin scale (K). For warmer colour, look for CFLs marked “soft white” or “warm white” and measured at 2700 to 3000K. For a brighter, whiter light, try 3500 to 4100K, and for a bluer light, look for 5000 to 6500K.

- **Know your watts.**

If you like the light level your current incandescent bulb gives you, look for a CFL with a wattage that is about one-quarter of your current bulb.

For example, if you want to replace a 60-watt incandescent, choose a 15-watt CFL; if you want to replace a 100-watt incandescent, go for a 25-watt CFL.

- **Check your switches, sockets and controls.**

Read the packaging carefully:

- If you have a **dimmer switch** on a light fixture, make sure you buy a **dimnable** CFL or it won’t dim and you could shorten the bulb’s life.
- If you have a **three-way socket**, which allows you to choose from three different light levels on a single lamp, or a **two-pin socket** instead of the usual screw-in, you’ll also need to look for special CFLs.
- If you’ve got a **lighting control** such as a motion sensor or timer on a light fixture, check with the manufacturer to find out which CFLs will work with your control.

- **Match the bulb to the fixture.**

Indoor CFLs come in a variety of shapes that suit different fixtures. The most common are:

TYPE OF CFL BULB	WHERE TO USE IT
A-Shape	With a cover over the spiral bulb underneath, these CFLs look just like incandescents and can be used in any table or floor lamps (including those with clip-on shades), pendants or ceiling fans.
Spiral	The first CFLs, spirals can be used most anywhere you’d use an incandescent, including table and floor lamps (except those with clip-on shades), pendants, ceiling fixtures, ceiling fans and wall sconces.
Globe	Globes are a larger, “fatter” version of the A-shaped CFL for use in pendants and bathroom fixtures where you can see the bulb.
Tube	CFL tubes are essentially straight versions of the spiral and can be used in table and floor lamps, ceiling fixtures and wall sconces.
Candle	Candles are ideal for decorative fixtures, like chandeliers or wall sconces where you can see the light bulb. They’re also good in tight-fitting light fixtures where a covered A-shape or globe won’t fit.
Indoor Reflector	Indoor reflector CFLs work in pot lights, track lights and ceiling fans.

- **Ask for help.**

With so many choices, it’s always a good idea to ask your retailer for help in selecting the right CFL for your application.

TWO MORE GREAT WAYS TO SAVE

CFLs are great energy savers, but there are several other ways to save energy and money on the lighting you need to keep your home safe and comfortable.

- **Buy ENERGY STAR® fixtures.**

A lighting fixture is basically everything but the bulb: table lamps, floor lamps, chandeliers, vanity light bars, pot lights, pendants and wall sconces are all “fixtures.”

If you’re planning to replace an old fixture—or you’re renovating a room or building a new home and want to build-in the savings—look for new fixtures that have the ENERGY STAR symbol. They deliver the same lighting as standard fixtures, but use about 75 per cent less energy.

- **Install lighting controls.**

Lighting controls can help you use only the energy you really need to light your home. For example:

- **Timers** allow you to program your lights to turn off and on at specific times (just before you come home from work, for example).
- **Dual switches** (more than one switch in different locations that control the same light) and **dimmers** are both useful for making sure you remember to turn lights off when a room is not in use or down when you do not need or want a bright light.
- **Occupancy and motion sensors** automatically turn lights on when you enter a room, and off when you leave.

LOOKING FOR EVEN MORE WAYS TO MAKE SURE YOUR HOME IS WELL-LIT, COMFORTABLE AND ENERGY-EFFICIENT AT THE SAME TIME?

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