

LAND

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What You Should Know About Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFLs)

The Benefits

Efficient: CFLs are four times more efficient and last up to 10 times longer than incandescents. A 22 watt CFL has about the same light output as a 100 watt incandescent. CFLs use 50 - 80 percent less energy than incandescents.

Less Expensive: Although initially more expensive, you save money in the long run because CFLs use 1/3 the electricity and last up to 10 times as long as incandescents. A single 18 watt CFL used in place of a 75 watt incandescent will save about 570 kWh over its lifetime. At an average of 8 cents per kWh, that equates to a \$45 savings.

Reduces Air and Water Pollution: Replacing a single incandescent bulb with a CFL will keep a half-ton of CO₂ out of the atmosphere over the life of the bulb. If everyone in the U.S. used energy-efficient lighting, we could retire 90 average size power plants. Saving electricity reduces CO₂ emissions and sulfur oxide.

High-Quality Light: Newer CFLs give a warm, inviting light instead of the "cool white" light of older fluorescents. They use rare earth phosphors for excellent color and warmth. New electronically ballasted CFLs don't flicker or hum.

Heat Generation: CFLs generate 70 percent less heat, so they are safer to operate. This also helps to reduce air conditioning use in the home.

Versatile: CFLs can be applied nearly anywhere that incandescent lights are used. Energy-efficient CFLs can be used in recessed fixtures, table lamps, track lighting, ceiling fixtures and porch lights. 3-way CFLs are also now available for lamps with 3-way settings. Dimmable CFLs are also available for lights using a dimmer switch and are available in multiple shapes and sizes.

Proper Handling and Disposal

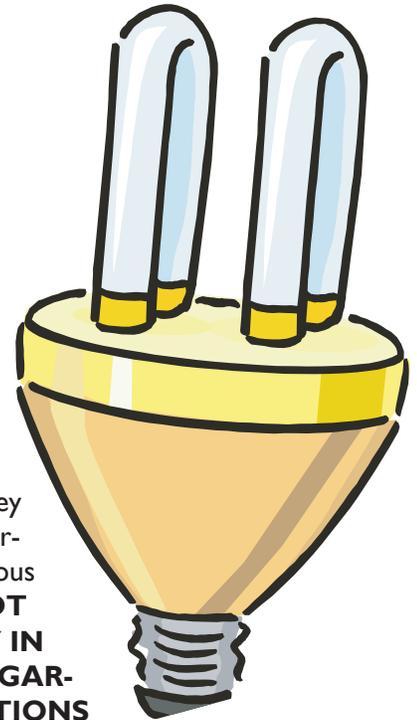
Although household CFL bulbs may legally be disposed of with regular trash in Oklahoma, they are categorized as household hazardous waste. Due to the mercury

content in CFLs, consumers must be sure to properly dispose of CFLs as they would paint, batteries, thermostats and other hazardous household items. **DO NOT THROW CFLs AWAY IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE IF BETTER OPTIONS EXIST.** Check with your city's stormwater or solid waste department for local disposal options. In Oklahoma City, CFLs are collected at the Household Hazardous Waste Center located at 3738 SW 15th St. (SW 15th & Portland Avenue) for proper disposal and recycling. Call (405) 682-7038 for more information or go to: www.okc.gov. In the Tulsa area, spent CFLs should be taken to The M.e.t.'s Household Pollutant Collection Events, held twice annually. Call (918) 584-0584 for dates and locations.

Because there is such a small amount of mercury in CFLs (about 5 mg, the size of the point of an ink pen), your greatest risk if a bulb breaks is getting cut from glass shards. Research indicates that there is no immediate health risk to you or your family should a bulb break and it's cleaned up properly. You can minimize any risks by following these proper clean-up and disposal guidelines:

- Sweep up—don't vacuum (can contaminate vacuum) —all of the glass fragments and fine particles.
- Place broken pieces in a sealed plastic bag and wipe the area with a damp paper towel to pick up any stray shards of glass or fine particles. Put the used towel in the plastic bag as well.
- If weather permits, open windows to allow the room to ventilate.

Until mercury-free and much more energy efficient LED (light emitting diodes) bulbs become more affordable and more readily available to consumers, everyone would benefit from the use of CFLs. [resources on back...](#)



Resources

Following are links to Web sites that provide more information about the proper use and disposal of compact fluorescent light bulbs. These resources also further address the issue of mercury and mercury content in CFLs. The first two provided the information for this fact sheet.

WWW.KPPC.ORG

WWW.EARTHEASY.COM/LIVE_ENERGYEFF_LIGHTING.HTM

WWW.ENERGYSTAR.GOV

WWW.EARTH911.ORG

WWW.LAMPRECYCLE.ORG

