

Energy Saving Tips

from the MSU Extension Housing and
Environmental Health Program



Compact fluorescent bulbs last 10 times longer

You can't change the cost of energy, but you can save on lighting costs by switching to compact fluorescent bulbs. Next time you visit the light bulb aisle, take a second look. When these bulbs were first introduced 20 years ago, they were a little bulky and didn't always fit well with existing lamps. Now, they are small, lightweight and cost effective.

Here's how compact fluorescent bulbs save. They last 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, so compare shelf price to 10 incandescent bulbs. Normally, the compact fluorescents will pay for themselves by reducing the number of bulbs you have to buy overall. On top of that, you can expect to save a total of \$30 on your power bill over the lifespan of each compact fluorescent bulb in your home (usually 10,000 hours). Multiply that savings by the number of compact fluorescents you use.

Because they are more efficient, a 15 watt compact fluorescent bulb will often replace a 60 watt incandescent bulb. You'll get the most savings and convenience by using these bulbs in frequently used fixtures and in fixtures where the bulbs are difficult to reach and replace. Many utilities offer rebates on these bulbs, making them available at almost no cost.

For best success, buy good quality name brand compact fluorescent bulbs. Choose the kind with electronic ballasts that come on immediately and have no noticeable flicker. And don't use compact fluorescent lamps in fixtures that have a dimmer (unless the bulb is designed for use with a dimmer).

For free information and energy saving tips, contact the MSU Extension Housing and Environmental Health Program at (406) 994-3451. To download free energy brochures, go to www.weatherization.org/energytopics.htm



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