Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Why Switch?

If you haven't already converted the lights in your home from traditional incandescent bulbs to Compact Fluorescents (CFL), you may want to after reading this. Consider the following benefits:

CFLs are four times more efficient and last up to 10 times longer than incandescents, even though CFL's cost a bit more at first, you save money in the long run.

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, thereby reducing pollution.

According to the U.S. EPA, if every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an Energy Star CFL, it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of more than 800,000 cars annually.

Recycling & Disposal Information:

CFL's contain a small amount of mercury, about 5 milligrams, roughly the size of the tip of a ball-point pen, therefore the US EPA recommends taking it to a local household hazardous waste collection or other collection site. See list below for local options.

- Ingham County Health Department's household hazardous waste collections, Thursdays, from 2-6pm at the at the corner of Cedar and Jolly, from April – September. Residents only, please no businesses, schools or churches. Please call 887-4312 for more information.
- The Board of Water & Light accepts intact, burned out CFLs for recycling and/or proper disposal at their main office, located at 1232 Haco Drive in Lansing.
- CFL's can also be taken to any Home Depot location. Customers should bring in unbroken bulbs and hand them to a store associate behind the returns desk.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Hotline: 517/483-4400

Email: recycle@lansingmi.gov Web: www.lansingrecycles.com

Proper Use

CFL's should be handled properly as they are made of glass and can break. Use caution when removing them from their packaging and installing or removing. Install or remove CFL's by holding onto the base, not the glass. Do not forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket.

Broken Bulbs

The U.S. EPA suggests the following steps be taken if you break a fluorescent bulb in your home:

1) Open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes or more.

2) Carefully scoop up the fragments and powder with stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a sealed plastic bag.

- Use disposable rubber gloves if available—do not use bare hands. Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or disposable wet wipes and place them in a plastic bag.
- Do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up the broken bulb on hard surfaces.

3) Place all cleanup materials in a second sealed plastic bag.

- Place the first bag in a second sealed plastic bag and put in the outdoor trash container or in another outdoor protected area for the next normal trash disposal.
- Wash your hands after disposing of the bag.

4) If a fluorescent bulb breaks on a rug or carpet:

- First, remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner, following the steps above. Sticky tape such as duct tape can be used to pick up small pieces of glass and powder.
- If vacuuming is needed after all visible materials have been removed, vacuum the area where the bulb was broken, remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister) and put the bag or vacuum debris in two sealed plastic bags in the outdoor trash or protected outdoor location for normal disposal.

Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency, Energy Star Web Site: www.energystar.gov