

Welcome to EnergyEfficiencyExplained.com. Here's your first free lesson on energy efficient lights.

Six Startling Facts You Need to Know
BEFORE Replacing another Light Bulb!

FACT #1: Your Choice of Bulb Could Save You a Bundle.

The average light bulb today uses incandescent technology, perfected by Thomas Edison in the 19th century. This technology relies on HEAT to make LIGHT. When electricity flows through a switch, a tiny metal wire (made of tungsten) glows hot.

Unfortunately, incandescent bulbs give off a lot more heat than light, making them at least 90% inefficient. And that means you're wasting energy and money on heat--when what you really want is light.

Enter the CFL bulb--CFL stands for "Compact Fluorescent Light." It's the latest relative of the long, white shop lights used in stores and office buildings. But it's shrunken and twisted to fit into the space originally meant for standard incandescent bulbs.

CFL bulbs are filled with invisible gas. When you flick the switch, an electric arc forms inside the bulb. The arc causes the gas around it to fluoresce, giving off energy. But this energy is invisible, because it's in the ultraviolet range.

So, designers coat the inside of the glass with a white chemical, usually phosphorous. When the ultraviolet energy from the arc hits the inside of the bulb, the phosphorous glows with visible light.

CFL bulbs give off 3 to 5 times more light than incandescent bulbs for the same amount of electricity. And they last 5 to 10 times longer. That means your overall investment in bulbs should be less, even though CFLs cost more to begin with.

BUT, switching all your bulbs to CFLs is not the end of the story. Next time we'll talk about why...

FACT #2: CFLs Aren't the Final Answer.