

It's the bright thing to do

Did you know?

- A compact fluorescent bulb (CFL) lasts up to ten times longer than an incandescent bulb.
- While it costs more to purchase, a CFL bulb will save much more money in the long run.
- One single compact fluorescent bulb prevents 1,000-2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from heating the atmosphere.

Here's how the bulbs compare:

	Fluorescent*	Incandescent
Energy used (watts)	13-15	60
Average cost (dollars)	\$2.00 to 5.00	\$0.25 to 0.60
Annual estimated savings (\$)	\$8	\$0
Annual carbon savings (lbs)	Approximately 100	0
Life (hours)	5,000-10,000	1,000

*Energy Star qualified light bulbs.

- If your ENERGY STAR qualified CFL product burns out before it should, look at the CFL base to find the manufacturer's name. Visit the manufacturer's web site to find the customer service contact information to inquire about a refund or replacement. Manufacturers producing ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs are required to offer at least a two-year limited warranty (covering manufacturer defects) for CFLs used at home. Save your receipts to document the date of purchase.
- Recycle it. CFLs do contain about 5 milligrams of mercury sealed in the glass tubing of the bulb, (roughly the equivalent to the tip of a ball-point pen). No mercury is released when the bulbs are in use. However, because of the mercury, CFLs are considered hazardous waste and they should be recycled. The HBPW Service Center at 625 Hastings Avenue will accept unbroken, burned out CFLs. Please place them in a sealable plastic bag for transport.
- If the CFL breaks, your greatest risk is getting cut from glass shards and not from the very small amount of mercury. Do not use a standard vacuum cleaner or a broom to clean up. Instead, wearing latex gloves, carefully clean up the fragments. Wipe the area with a damp disposable paper towel to remove all glass fragments. Keep the area well ventilated to disperse any vapor that may escape. After clean up is finished, place all the fragments along with the cleaning materials used into a double sealable plastic bag. Seal the bag and put it in the outdoor trash.

For more information on compact fluorescent bulbs, visit www.energystar.gov