How Energy-Efficient Light Bulbs Compare with Traditional Incandescents

By replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR, you can save $75 each year.

Compared to traditional incandescents, energy-efficient lightbulbs such as halogen incandescents, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), and light emitting diodes (LEDs) have the following advantages:

- Typically use about 25%-80% less energy than traditional incandescents, saving you money
- Can last 3-25 times longer.
Today's energy-efficient bulbs are available in the wide range of colors and light levels you've come to expect. While the initial price of energy-efficient bulbs is typically higher than traditional incandescents, newer bulbs cost less to operate, saving you money over the life of the bulb. Many of the newer bulbs last significantly longer than traditional bulbs, so you won't need to replace them as often.

The table below compares a 60 watt (W) traditional incandescent with energy efficient bulbs that provide similar light levels.

| Comparisons between Traditional Incandescents, Halogen Incandescents, CFLs, and LEDs |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                 | 60W Traditional Incandescent | 43W Energy-Saving Incandescent | 15W CFL | 12W LED |
|                                 | 60W Traditional | 43W Halogen | 60W Traditional | 43W Halogen |
| Energy $ Saved (%)              | -                   | -25%       | -75%           | -65%        |
| Annual Energy Cost*             | $4.80               | $3.50      | $1.20          | $1.00       |
| Bulb Life                       | 1000 hours          | 1000 to 3000 hours | 10,000 hours | 25,000 hours |

*Based on 2 hrs/day of usage, an electricity rate of 11 cents per kilowatt-hour, shown in U.S. dollars.

Learn More  Links

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Replacing Lightbulbs and Ballasts
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Lumens and the Lighting Facts Label

Fluorescent Lighting

LED Lighting

When to Turn Off Your Lights

New Lighting Standards Began in 2012