

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS (CFLs)

WHY SHOULD YOU USE THEM?

- CFLs use about 75% less electric energy than incandescent bulbs.
- The difference of the cost of a 13 watt CFL bulb vs. a 60 watt equivalent incandescent bulb is \$2.00.
- Each CFL bulb will save \$30 in electricity over the life of the bulb, a net savings to you of \$28.00. A 2000 Sq. Ft. house contains between 50 and 55 light fixtures. If 40 CFLs (75%) were used, the net savings over the life of the bulbs would be \$1,120. In addition to the electricity savings, the reduced wattage (13) of the CFL will reduce the heat load due to lighting on your air conditioning by 70%.
- Other good things happen when you conserve electricity: it reduces the need to build additional power plants, and reduces the amount of mercury generated by existing plants.
- If every home in America replaced one incandescent bulb with a CFL bulb, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes. That would prevent the release of green house gas emissions equal to that of about 800,000 cars.

PURCHASING FLUORESCENT LIGHTING PICK THE RIGHT CFL!

There are many types of CFLs allowing you to choose the correct one for each lighting application. Check with the clerks at your grocery, pharmacy or hardware store to find the proper type bulb. Read the labels and any literature that might be available at the store.

- Bulbs on dimmer switches must use a bulb made for that purpose.
- For 3-way light fixtures, buy a 3 way CFL bulb. The regular CFLs will work but only at the medium level.
- A CFL may require a short warm up period to reach maximum brightness.
- May you use a CFL in a closed fixture? Yes if the fixture is not **recessed** in a ceiling or wall.
- Outdoor use for CFLs, require an enclosed protected fixture. Check labels for temperature specifics.
- Ceiling fans and Garage door openers vibrate and may cause failure to the bulb or to the electronics. There are special CFL bulbs that will work. Check the labels and literature available.
- Flood light CFLs are available. If to be used outdoors, check temperature specifics.
- Chandelier decorative bulbs are available but not in all stores.
- Check out the various levels of CFL light, from the bright white reading light to the softer light for applying cosmetics. Most stores have both kinds available.
- Do you have a fixture that you turn on and off frequently (3-5 minutes or less)? Sorry, it's going to cost the price of using a heat generating incandescent bulb. CFLs are more efficient and last longer if they are not switched on and off frequently.

THINK ABOUT THIS:

When you have a need for more brightness in a particular light fixture that limits you to 60watts or 100 watts of incandescent light, you may substitute a CFL that has a rating of less than the limit of the fixture, i.e., use a 38-42 w CFL in a 60w receptacle and receive 150 watts of brightness without causing a heat problem in the fixture.

WATTAGE LIGHT (& HEAT) COMPARISON

- | Standard bulbs | = | CFL Bulbs |
|----------------|---|-----------|
| 40w | = | 10w |
| 60w | = | 13w-15w |
| 75w | = | 20w |
| 100w | = | 26w-29w |
| 150w | = | 38w-42w |
| 250w-300w | = | 55w |

USING FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS SAFELY

- Use CFLs in all sturdy light fixtures. It is best to not use them in table or floor lamps in children’s bedrooms or play areas.
- Handled properly, there is no danger in using compact or regular fluorescent bulbs. As long as the bulbs are not broken the mercury can’t leak. Care must be taken when handling all fluorescent bulbs.

• RECYCLE USED FLUORESCENT BULBS

- To encourage the use of CFLs, Ikea, Home Depot, and Ace Hardware stores collect them at their stores for the hazardous waste department to pick up. Place the CFLs in the plastic bags provided and put them in the collection box located at the entrance to the store.
- The tube fluorescent bulbs and CFLs are to be taken to the City of Austin hazardous waste facility for proper disposal. It is important that the mercury from fluorescent bulbs be kept out of the landfill.
- **St. David’s is unable to handle recycling of fluorescent bulbs at this time.**

A REMINDER!

Change out your household lighting to CFLs. Buy in bulk to save more money on bulb costs. More importantly, get immediate relief from high electricity costs due to less heat generation during the cooling season. Generate less mercury in the atmosphere by reducing the need for more coal burning, mercury spewing, electric generation plants, and the manufacturing of incandescent Lighting, which also generates more mercury in the atmosphere than the manufacturing of CFLs.