

# Lighting MYTHS and FACTS

In 2007, President Bush signed into law bipartisan energy legislation to help Americans save money and do more with less energy. As a result, you are seeing a number of new light bulbs at your local store. These bulbs—new energy-saving incandescents, LEDs and CFLs—offer the range of color and features you're accustomed to, yet they use less energy. Let's clear up some misconceptions about these new lighting choices.

**MYTH** I won't be able to buy incandescent light bulbs next year.

**FACT** Incandescent light bulbs will still be for sale after the 2012–2014 provisions of the new law take effect. In fact, there are incandescent bulbs on the store shelves today which use about 25% less energy; they meet these new requirements. You'll also be able to continue to purchase 3-way incandescent bulbs and other specialty bulbs.



**25%** The energy dollars you'll save with energy-saving incandescents

**MYTH** Americans are being forced to buy those curly, blue, fluorescent bulbs.

**FACT** The curly bulbs—which, by the way, now come in warm and bright white colors—are called Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs). The curly bulbs are one of a variety of CFL designs, and just one kind of efficient bulb you can choose from.

**75%** The energy dollars you'll save with CFLs



CFLs are much better than when they were first introduced. You can now find CFLs in a full range of colors, many have covers to give them traditional bulb shapes, they generally ramp up to full brightness faster than before, and some are dimmable.

The big benefit of CFLs: they will save you significant money. Let's say you replace one traditional 100 watt (W) incandescent bulb, which you run 2 hours each day, with an ENERGY STAR-qualified CFL; you save about \$6 each year in energy costs, assuming average electricity rates. In about 6 months, you'll save what the bulb cost

you to buy, and it should last about 10 times longer than the old incandescent, so you'll keep saving well into the future.

You can also choose from a range of energy-saving incandescent bulbs, and a rapidly growing selection of light-emitting diodes (LEDs)—a completely different technology.

LED replacements for traditional 40 W, 60 W, and 75 W bulbs are already on store shelves, and manufacturers are set to release

products to replace brighter bulbs in the coming months. ENERGY STAR LEDs should last about 25 times longer than traditional bulbs and they also use 75%–80% less energy than traditional incandescents. So, as with CFLs, you'll see immediate savings in energy costs. While LED prices are still high, they're expected to drop over time—just as with flat panel TVs and other electronics. Yet even at current prices, the energy savings will typically cover the bulb cost years before you have to think about replacing those bulbs again.

**Save about \$50 a year by replacing 15 traditional bulbs with a mix of energy-efficient bulbs.**

**75%+** The energy dollars you'll save with LEDs



**MYTH** CFLs are harmful.

**FACT** CFLs contain a small amount of mercury—much less than the 4 foot fluorescent tube lights most of us have been using for decades in our homes and offices, and about 100 times less than the old thermometers. In the big picture, CFLs actually reduce the total amount of lighting-related mercury entering the environment: because CFLs need less energy, electric utilities can burn less coal and emit less mercury. If you aren't comfortable with CFLs, you have other choices.

**MYTH** These lighting standards will hurt the U.S. economy.

**FACT** Standards like this one can help America remain competitive economically. You would save about \$50 a year by replacing 15 traditional bulbs with a mix of energy-efficient bulbs. And those savings really add up: As a country, we'd save about \$6 billion a year. That money can be saved or invested in other productive ways, not wasted on energy. Today, you are already saving on energy costs thanks to similar national standards for refrigerators—and the innovation those standards inspired. Compared to refrigerators of the 1970s, today's refrigerators save the nation about \$20 billion per year in energy costs, or \$150 per year for the average family.

By requiring a single national lighting standard, Congress also helped businesses avoid wasting time and money to meet a patchwork of different state standards. Individual rules for energy-efficient products in each of the 50 states would be one of the least efficient business environments for the manufacturing industry.

Finally, the lighting standard should help American innovators and companies with manufacturing in the United States sharpen their edge in the global marketplace. Countries around the world are looking for ways to maintain or improve their citizens' standard of living with less energy, and many have adopted standards which drive markets for efficient lighting. American and international firms are presently developing new products, and manufacturing LED lighting parts and products, here in the United States. Thanks in part to the clear signal Congress sent with the new lighting standards, the outlook is strong for innovation and growth in the U.S. and global LED market.



**Lighting Choices SAVE YOU MONEY**

All of these light bulbs meet the new energy standards that take effect from 2012–2014.