

High Efficiency Lighting Choices

Put aside your incandescent globes and consider some energy saving alternatives. What are they?

Downlights have become a popular choice but are to be avoided if you are looking for an energy efficient solution for space lighting.

New generation compact fluorescent lights (CFL) come in a wide range of sizes to fit into small lamps or ceiling recesses and provide a warm light colour.

AVOIDING DOWNLIGHTS

If you are considering downlights for a living space, think again as you could substantially increase your lighting costs. Your heating costs may also rise as downlights can cause gaps in ceiling insulation.

You also may have an unsatisfactory lighting pattern as halogen downlights provide bright pools of light rather than general illumination.

IF YOU ALREADY HAVE DOWNLIGHTS...

- ⊗ Ask for 35W downlights by Osram or Phillips with the same light output as a standard 50W
- ⊗ Use the dimmer
- ⊗ Keep an eye out for LED and micro-CFL technology and consider rewiring

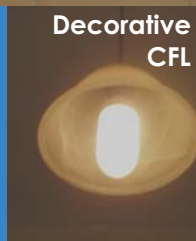
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Low voltage does not mean low power use.

Downlights can now number up over 100 in a house and six in a room. This has led to lighting energy in homes increasing 3 to 4 times the traditional fluorescent tube or even incandescent globe. (DSC, Vic)



Compact fluorescents have a lifetime of up to 10,000 hours, while halogen downlights last for up to 2,000 hours and can be sensitive to voltage fluctuations.



Tips for choosing a good compact fluorescent light:

- ✓ 'Warm white' colour
- ✓ Curly style to get good light distribution
- ✓ Not the cheapest – pay a little more for quality
- ✓ Choose a slightly higher wattage than the incandescent equivalent
- ✓ Check the maximum size to fit your lamp before you go shopping

The CFLamp should not 'buzz'. If it does, take it back.

INSTALLING FLUORESCENT TUBES AND LAMPS

All fluorescent lamps contain some mercury but this is being reduced all the time. Far more mercury (and other pollutants) are released into the atmosphere from burning coal to provide the power for inefficient incandescent lamps. (Australian Greenhouse Office website)

Nevertheless take care when handling these lamps. If one breaks, open a window and leave the room to ventilate for 15 minutes. With gloves and a moist disposable cloth, pick up the pieces. Do not use a vacuum cleaner. Wrap the pieces and cleaning tools and place in a sealable container (www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/lamp-mercury.html) Place the container in your yellow-top bin (SMRC).

Turn off lights including compact fluorescents when leaving the room for more than 5 minutes.



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Water Resources

Australian Greenhouse Office

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SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

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