

Turning your
house into
your dream
home

Vol. 3, #11



*Incandescent
light bulbs
use four
times more
energy than
Compact
Fluorescent
bulbs...*

DOING IT RIGHT

With help from D4 Construction

Increase Your Home's Energy Efficiency—Part V

Saving money with cost-effective lighting...

Everyone's talking about Compact Fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's) but are they really what they're cracked up to be?

CFL facts—

- ⇒ Fluorescent technology is much more efficient at converting energy to light meaning compact fluorescent lights will use 4 times less energy than the regular incandescent bulb
- ⇒ CFL's last 10 times longer—this translates into a 10,000 hour lifespan instead of the usual 1,000
- ⇒ A 75W (watt) incandescent bulb can be replaced by an 18W compact fluorescent— meaning you use less electricity
- ⇒ Though more expensive to buy you need to buy them 10 times less often
- ⇒ If you use a lamp for more than 30 minutes per day it is worthwhile to replace the bulb with a compact fluorescent
- ⇒ Replacing just 5 incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent's could save you as much as \$30 every year

Some questions about CFL's—

⇒ Should you turn off a compact fluorescent when you leave the room?

There's a common misconception out there that it takes more energy to start a fluorescent than it does to run it—so it's better to leave them on at all times if you want to save money.

In reality there is a brief jump in current, for about 1/10th of a second, when you first turn on the light, which draws the equivalent of approximately 5 seconds of normal operation. So unless you're turning the light on and off every 5 seconds,

turning off a CFL when you leave the room will not negatively affect your energy bill.

⇒ Do CFL's work with dimmer or three-way switches?

They now have specially designed CFL's to work with these switches so be sure to check the package before buying them for this use.

⇒ Can CFL's be used outdoors in colder temperatures?

Yes, they can. There are CFL's that can be used outdoors in temperatures as low as -30°C. Check the packaging to be sure.

If at all possible—enclose the bulb in an outdoor fixture to protect it from the cold, wind and humidity.

Doing it Right



If we all switched to using Compact Fluorescent bulbs we'd save an enormous amount of energy, not to mention money.

If the CFL is being used in a motion sensitive lamp—it will shorten the lifespan of the bulb.

⇒ CFL's contain mercury—how can they be safe?

The average mercury content of a CFL is approximately 3 milligrams. To give you a better idea of just what this means look at the table below:

Item	Comparable # of CFL's
Watch battery	5
Dental amalgams	100
Home thermometer	100—400
Sump pump switches	400
Tilt thermostat	600
Electrical tilt switches & relays	700

Research is ongoing to ultimately develop a mercury-free fluorescent lamp.

Say that again—

Switching from incandescent to compact fluorescent bulbs may seem like a small change—saving you up to \$60 per year—but you need to look at the bigger picture.

If all Canadians switched it could save residential owners \$600,000,000 a year on electricity bills.

Doing your small part could save us all—BIG!

Upcoming Topics

⇒ Have a Cleaner, Greener Christmas

For more information:

on how we can assist you with turning your house into your dream home while making it more energy efficient—or if you have any questions—call Mike Spruyt at 572-4812

The D₄ Guarantee



D₁ – Your job will be done for the price specified—there are no surprises or hidden costs.

D₂ – Your job will be completed the way you want it done.

D₃ – If you aren't satisfied with the finished product we'll fix it for free.

D₄ – All work comes with a 2-year guarantee on workmanship