

Lighting Energy Saving Tips

Electric lights account for about 10 to 15 percent of your electric bill. You can save money on lighting with little or no effort or cost. The best way is to turn off lights when they're not needed and to not overlight areas. Take a walk through your house and see where you can make these energy savings changes:

- Use "task lighting" wherever possible. In other words, use a small lamp for reading or working-light the subject instead of the entire room.
- Don't use "long-life" incandescent bulbs. They're less energy efficient than ordinary bulbs, giving off less light per watt.
- For areas that need a great deal of light, use one large wattage bulb instead of several small ones (one 100-watt bulb actually provides more light than two 60-watt bulbs).
- Use LED where possible. LED bulbs use 85 percent less energy than incandescents and 50 percent less than CFLs to produce the same amount of light.
- When buying bulbs, check the package for information. Light is measured in lumens-you want the most lumens per watt.
- Dimmer controls and three-way switches on lamps can reduce energy use by allowing you to select the lighting levels sufficient for your needs.