

# Energy saving light bulbs popular with consumers

A program to encourage homeowners to buy energy efficient light bulbs is being offered until the end of 1992.

The Ontario Hydro program, which offers a \$5 rebate to customers who purchase compact fluorescent bulbs, was so successful when launched initially in a grocery store chain in 1990, the bulbs were quickly sold out.

Now the rebate offer has been expanded to include many different manufacturers' products sold in a variety of retail outlets. The bulbs are available at most hardware, grocery and department stores.

However, supply has been limited in the past six months, due to the overwhelming consumer demand for this product across North America.

Compact fluorescent bulbs cost more than traditional incandescent bulbs, but use up to 75 per cent less energy and last up to 10 times longer. So, compact fluorescents actually cost less to use.

Ontario Hydro recommends a practical, energy efficient mix of lighting for a typical house that includes compact fluorescent and

other energy efficient lighting products.

Most homes have about 30 light fixtures. Of these, typically two to four are suitable locations for compact fluorescent bulbs. To be cost effective, compact fluorescents should be put in areas where the bulbs are left on for a long period of time, usually four or more hours at a time.

Compact fluorescent bulbs provide the same natural light as higher wattage incandescent bulbs. A 15-watt compact fluorescent bulb can provide the same amount of light as a 60-watt incandescent bulb.

## Halogen lights

They are available in several shapes, sizes and wattages.

"Another three to five sockets in a typical house can have halogen flood or spot lights in track or pot lights, or as outdoor security flood lights" says Debby Keown, Energy Supervisor at Ontario Hydro.

Halogen bulbs are efficient, using up to 40 per cent less power than a conventional bulb. They produce a whiter light and can last two to four times longer.

Halogen lights come in two types: lights that operate on a standard household voltage and can be a direct replacement for an incandescent bulb; and very small quartz halogen bulbs for fixtures that have a built-in transformer to lower the voltage.

"Reduced wattage fluorescent tubes are good for bathrooms and kitchens, which accounts for another three or four sockets in an average home," says Ms Keown.

The 34-watt tubes use 60 to 80 per cent less energy than standard incandescents and last 16 times longer. For the remainder of the house, "We recommend reduced wattage incandescent bulbs, available in 52-watt and 90-watt sizes," says Ms Keown.

Other ways to save energy in lighting your home include using timers to turn lights on and off as required; dimmers so lights can be turned down for a romantic dinner; and motion sensors to turn lights off when no one's in the room.

When shopping for new ceiling or wall fixtures, consumers should know that a fixture with a single bulb is more economical to operate than one with several bulbs ad-

ding up to the same wattage, says Ms. Keown.

One 100-watt bulb gives off 1-1/2 times as much light as four 25-watt bulbs. Lamps that accept tri-light bulbs are also good because they offer the flexibility of using three different light levels with one bulb.

## Turn lights off

Ms Keown says that contrary to popular belief, turning off the lights when you leave a room, even if it's only for a short time, will save energy.

Consumers who buy a CSA approved compact fluorescent bulb can obtain a \$5 rebate from Ontario Hydro by mailing in a completed rebate form, available where they purchased the bulb. Six to eight weeks later, they will receive their \$5 rebate cheque in the mail.

George Herrington, of Halton Hills Hydro recommends the use of the compact fluorescent for agricultural applications. The savings of their electrical bill can be substantial if a number of lights are used in the operation.

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