

Vermeer Voluntary Energy Conservation Program

These are voluntary measures you can take to reduce your personal energy consumption. By working to reduce your “carbon footprint” you will also be reducing the Vermeer’s energy costs thereby helping to keep down monthly maintenance.

1. **Lighting** – Lighting accounts for 5 to 10 % of total energy use in the average home.
 - Energy Star-qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLS) use less than 25% of the electricity standard light bulbs use and last 10 times longer.
 - Shut off all the lights when you leave a room.
 - During the day, let daylight do the work and turn off lights near windows.
 - Instead of brightly lighting an entire room, focus the light where you need it.
 - Keep bulbs and fixtures clean.
 - Replace light switches with dimmers.
 - Use bright lights only where you read or work. Otherwise use 24 or 40 watt bulbs.
 - Use night lights when a little light is enough.
2. **Cooling** – Switching to high efficiency air conditioners and reducing your air conditioner use can cut costs by 20 to 50%.
 - Inspect and clean your air conditioner annually. A well maintained unit uses less electricity.
 - Set your air conditioner to 72 degrees. Setting your a/c lower than 72 degrees can increase costs by up to 40%.
 - Don’t air condition an empty room.
 - Turn your air conditioner off when you leave home (unless you have pets).

- Use your timer (or install a programmable thermostat) to turn on you're air conditioner a half hour before your return home rather than having it run all day.
- Clean or replace air conditioner filters at least once a month during the cooling season.
- Use fans whenever possible instead of air conditioners. Fans use far less energy than air conditioners.
- Alternate the use of air conditioners with fans. When you're comfortable, turn off the air conditioner and turn on the fan. This approach can save up to 40%.
- Don't run the air conditioner when the outdoor temperature is below 70 degrees. Open the window instead.

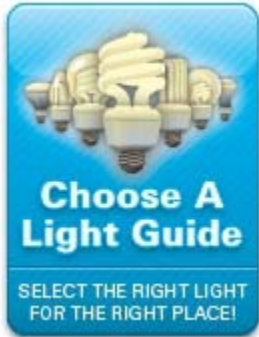
3. **Appliances** - When replacing appliances, purchase energy star products.

- Turn off appliances and equipment when not in use including TVs, cable boxes, computers and monitors.
- Plug home entertainment and computer equipment into power strips. This way, it's one easy switch to turn them on and off.
- Choose Energy Star-qualified appliances which use 10 to 50% less electricity than standard models. A list of Energy Star products is available at www.energystar.gov.
- Use the energy-saving setting for all appliances, particularly your refrigerator, air conditioner, and dishwasher.
- Set your refrigerator to 40 degrees and your freezer to 0 degrees.
- Run your dishwasher only when it is full.

The following information was obtained from www.energystar.gov:

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs for Consumers

(Are you a partner? [For Partners](#))



ENERGY STAR Choose a Light Guide

If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, we would save **enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year**, more than **\$600 million in annual energy costs**, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than **800,000 cars**.

Earning the Government's ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs

ENERGY STAR qualified bulbs use about **75 percent less energy** than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to **10 times longer**.

Save about \$30 or more in electricity costs over each bulb's lifetime.

Produce about **75 percent less heat**, so they're safer to operate and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling.

Are available in different [sizes and shapes](#) to fit in almost any fixture, for indoors and outdoors.

[Learn](#) the facts about mercury in CFLs.

Recycling information for ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs may be found at www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling or www.earth911.org.

How to Choose and Where to Use CFLs

ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs provide the greatest savings in fixtures that are on for a substantial amount of time each day. At a minimum, ENERGY STAR recommends installing qualified CFLs in fixtures that are used at least 15 minutes at a time or

several hours per day. The best fixtures to use qualified CFLs in are usually found in the following areas of your home:

- family and living rooms
- kitchen
- dining room
- bedrooms
- outdoors

How to Choose the Right Light

Matching the right CFL to the right kind of fixture helps ensure that it will perform properly and last a long time.

For example:

CFLs perform best in open fixtures that allow airflow, such as table and floor lamps, wall sconces, pendants, and outdoor fixtures.

For recessed fixtures, it is better to use a reflector CFL than a spiral CFL since the design of the reflector evenly distributes the light down to your task area.

If a light fixture is connected to a **dimmer or three-way socket fixture**, you'll need to use a special ENERGY STAR qualified CFL designed to work in these applications. Make sure to look for CFLs that specify use with dimmers or three-way fixtures.

[Choose a qualified CFL that offers a shade of white light that works best for you.](#)

For example, while most CFLs provide warm or soft white light for your home, you could choose a cooler color for task lighting.

To choose the ENERGY STAR qualified CFL with the right amount of light, find a qualified CFL that is labeled as equivalent to the incandescent bulb you are replacing. Light bulb manufacturers include this information right on the product packaging to make it easy for consumers to choose the equivalent bulb. Common terms include "**Soft White 60**" or "**60 Watt Replacement.**"

You should also check the lumen rating to find the right CFL. The higher the lumen rating, the greater the light output. Consult the following chart to determine what CFL wattage is best to replace your incandescent light bulb: