

Tip of the Week



**Extension Tip of the Week (TOW)
November 21, 2007
Choose Money Saving Light Bulbs**

Most of the time energy costs are out of our control. The recent hike in gas prices is one example. This increase is hitting families hard, especially during the Holiday season when more folks are on the road than other times of the year. We also feel the pain of soaring energy costs when we pay our heating and cooling bills.

We all seek ways to cut expenses. For years we have heeded suggestions to winterize our homes to make them as energy efficient as possible. Recently, there has been much written concerning Energy Star florescent bulbs. According to the Department of Energy, incandescent light bulbs are outdated.

Did you know that 95 percent of the energy used by regular light bulbs goes to heating the bulb, adding unwanted heat to your home in the summer?

Here is one money saving idea- simply replace your five most used light bulbs with ENERGY STAR compact fluorescent bulbs to save \$60 each year in energy costs. These light bulbs use two-thirds less energy and last up to 10 times longer. Use dimmers, timers, and motion detectors on indoor and outdoor lighting.

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.

These bulbs can be found at most stores that sell incandescent bulbs. The cost for purchasing these bulbs is higher than the old style bulbs, but you will reap savings on your energy bill that will exceed your extra investment costs. You'll also be doing a positive thing for the environment.