



## Incandescent Light Bulbs Being Phased Out

Did you know that new federal energy efficiency standards for light bulbs will result in stores phasing out traditional incandescent bulbs by January 2014? Starting with 100W incandescent bulbs in 2012, these new standards will mean that after existing stocks are depleted, retailers will only be allowed to sell bulbs that meet the new standards.

What does this mean for consumers? Energy efficient light bulbs will be the standard on store shelves. But with new light bulb technologies comes new terminology, so take a moment to review the information below to make a more enlightened purchase.

### Get to Know the New Light Bulb Label

In the past, when you wanted a really bright light, you would look for a high-watt bulb. Now, with energy efficiency rules reducing watt levels, your best bet in finding your desired level of brightness is by looking at the light output of the bulb, measured in lumens. Per new **Federal Trade Commission (FTC) rules**, light bulbs of all kinds will be required to have a new Lighting Facts label – become familiar with this label to ensure you get what you want.

Lighting Facts <small>Per Bulb</small>	
Brightness	820 lumens
Estimated Yearly Energy Cost \$7.23 <small>Based on 3 hrs/day, 11¢/kWh Cost depends on rates and use</small>	
Life	1.4 years <small>Based on 3 hrs/day</small>
Light Appearance Warm  Cool 2700 K	
Energy Used	60 watts

*Look for the new light bulb label*

**Brightness:** the higher the lumens, the brighter the bulb.

**Light Appearance:** the higher the CCT (correlated color temperature measured in kelvins), the “cooler” the appearance of the light’s color. Warm light (associated with standard incandescents) ranges from 2700-3500K. Cool light ranges from 3600-5500K. Bulbs advertised as “daylight” will typically have a color temperature of 5000K or higher.

**Energy Efficiency:** the higher the lumens/watt, the more efficient the bulb.

**Mercury:** is a known developmental toxin, so it is important to know how to **safely manage and dispose** of broken and expired bulbs containing mercury. The EPA has great safety information on **what to do if you break a mercury-containing bulb**. Home improvement stores will also often have drop boxes for light bulb recycling.

### Choosing a Quality Product

Look for the **ENERGY STAR Label**. ENERGY STAR certified products meet certain quality standards related to light output, energy efficiency, life span, and other performance metrics such as run-up time (the time it takes from when you turn “on” the light until it reaches normal light output). The **ENERGY STAR website** maintains a list of all qualified compact fluorescent and LED products and even has a free “**Light Bulb Finder**” mobile app.

Learn more about these new technologies and about **compact fluorescent** or **LED** lighting.