

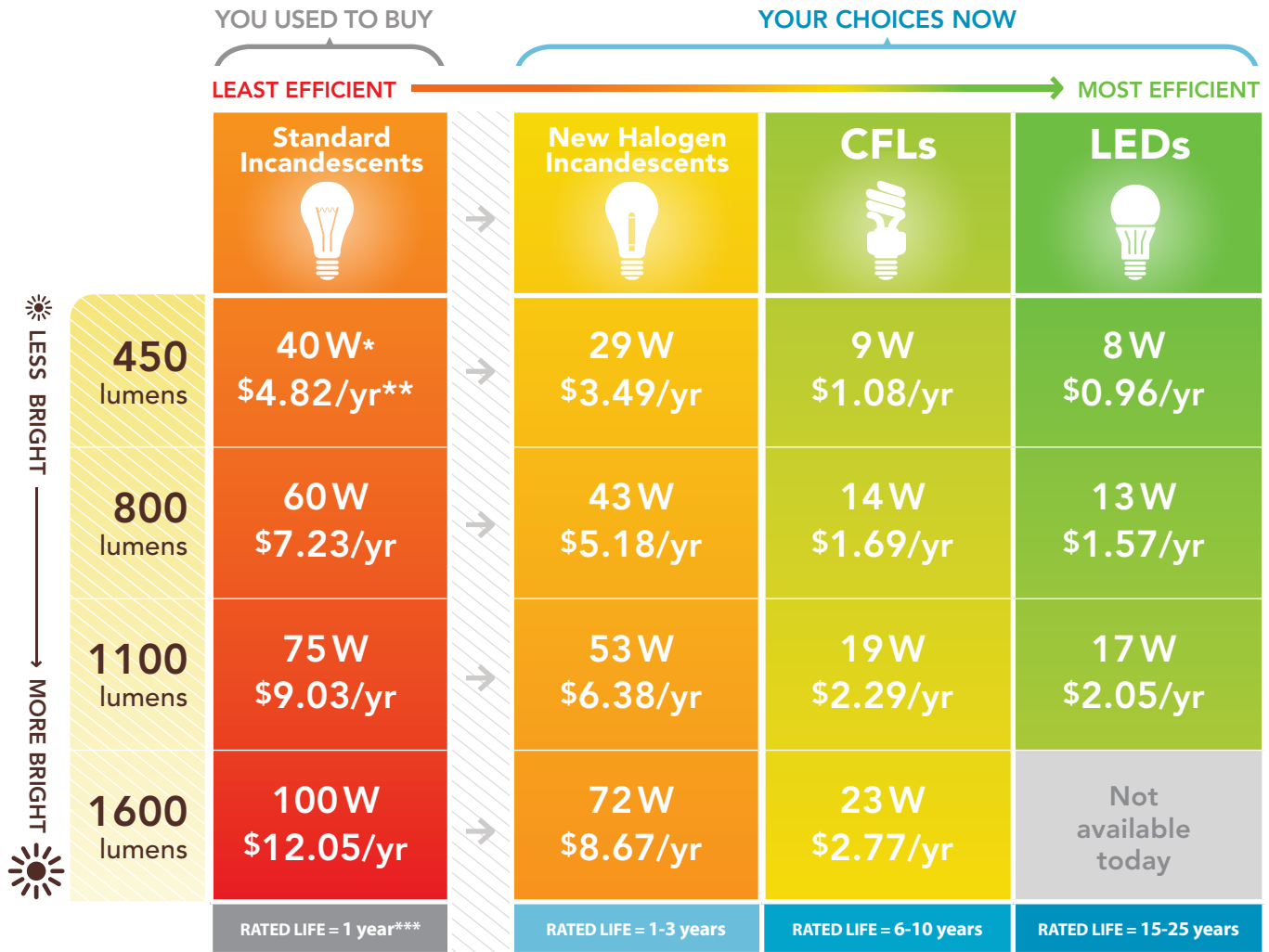
Your Guide to More Efficient and Money-Saving Light Bulbs



With new energy efficient lighting standards come new kinds of light bulbs and more choices than ever. So how do you decide which bulb is best for your home and budget?

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

- STEP 1** Choose bulbs based on how bright you need them to be. ☀️ This is measured in lumens. The higher the lumens, the brighter the light.
- STEP 2** Once you've chosen the lumen output you need, determine which bulb has the **lowest estimated energy cost per year**. These will save you the most money.
- STEP 3** Finally, choose the other features you prefer, such as lifetime and light appearance. The ENERGY STAR® logo tells you which CFLs and LEDs meet minimum efficiency, lifetime and quality standards.



* energy use ** estimated energy cost per year *** rated life is based on 3 hours of use per day

Where can I find this information?

All light bulb packages will soon have labels that tell you what you need to know, much like nutrition labels on food. Some packages may claim their bulb is a "60 watt equivalent," but the brightness (in lumens) tells you what you really need to know.

Front of package

- 1 Brightness
- 2 Estimated energy cost per year

Brightness
800
lumens

Estimated Energy Cost
\$1.69
per year

Back of package

- 3 Other Features

Lighting Facts Per Bulb

Brightness **800 lumens**

Estimated Yearly Energy Cost **\$1.69**
Based on 3 hrs/day, 11¢/kWh, Cost depends on rates and use.

Life **7 years**
Based on 3 hrs/day

Light Appearance
Warm **2700 K** Cool

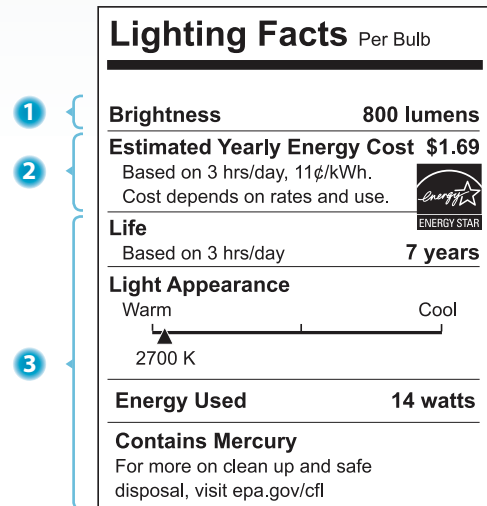
Energy Used **14 watts**

Contains Mercury
For more on clean up and safe disposal, visit epa.gov/cfl

Why are light bulbs changing?

In 2007, Congress passed and President Bush signed into law the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA), calling for improved energy efficiency for many products, including light bulbs. You will still be able to buy incandescent bulbs that look and operate like the ones you are used to—they will just use less energy. The law also requires new light bulb labels to help you choose the most efficient bulbs, like LEDs and CFLs.

See the Savings on New Bulb Labels



ENERGY STAR Logo – Indicates which CFLs and LEDs meet ENERGY STAR requirements for efficiency, lifetime and quality.

Life – Estimates in years how long the bulb will last. Long life bulbs save you the hassle of frequent bulb changes.




Light Appearance – Tells you the shade of light. Incandescents produce warm white light—between 2,700 and 3,000 K. Bulbs that produce cooler or more bluish light will have a higher rating, such as 4,000 to 6,500 K.

Energy Used (watts) – Measures bulb energy use, not brightness.

Contains Mercury – CFLs contain extremely low levels of mercury, <5 mg, and are completely safe to use in normal operation. In fact, the amount of mercury inside a CFL is equal to the size of the period at the end of this sentence. Should a CFL break in your home, use common sense clean-up procedures – keep kids away, open the window and carefully clean up the pieces and place them in a zip lock bag for proper disposal. To put this concern in context, mercury emissions from power plants present a much more serious threat to human health and the environment than a broken CFL. Also note, retailers such as Home Depot and Lowes offer free CFL recycling.

Some bulbs last for 1 year and others last for 10 or more. Which bulbs cost the least in the long run?

While a traditional incandescent bulb may be the cheapest to buy, the overall cost of both purchasing and powering the bulb will be nearly four times higher than a CFL. And over the longer life of a CFL those savings can approach 50 dollars. The following table makes plain why more energy efficient bulbs are the best bargain overall.

Bulb Types (all approx. 1600 lumens)	Life	Costs	Year 1	Cost Annually	Total Costs over 6 years
Standard Incandescent 100 W 	1 yr*	Bulb Cost	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$3.00
		Energy Cost	\$12.05	\$12.05	\$72.30
		Total Cost	\$12.55	\$12.55	\$75.30
Halogen Incandescent 72 W 	1 yr	Bulb Cost	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$9.00
		Energy Cost	\$8.67	\$8.67	\$52.02
		Total Cost	\$10.17	\$10.17	\$61.02
CFL 23 W 	6 yrs	Bulb Cost	\$3.00	\$0.00	\$3.00
		Energy Cost	\$2.77	\$2.77	\$16.62
		Total Cost	\$5.77	\$2.77	\$19.62

* rated life is based on 3 hours of use per day

PROJECT MANAGED BY :
Noah Horowitz,
Senior Scientist, NRDC
nrdc.org

PREPARED BY:
Ecos
ecosconsulting.com

