

# CFL Light Bulb Safety

Energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) are becoming more common in homes and at work. In addition to using less electricity, they also have a positive impact on the global climate. Here are some important safety tips you should know about CFLs.



PURCHASE CFL LIGHT BULBS that have the listing label of a recognized testing laboratory. Light bulbs labeled by a recognized testing lab will ensure that the bulb meets the latest product safety standards.

## When a CFL Burns Out

- »» When a CFL bulb burns out it may smoke and the plastic base may blacken. This is normal and is not a fire safety issue.
- »» CFLs should never be discarded with household trash. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that consumers use local recycling options for CFLs. Contact your local government or visit [epa.gov/cfl/cflrecycling](http://epa.gov/cfl/cflrecycling) or [earth911.org](http://earth911.org) to identify local recycling options.

## If a CFL Breaks

CFLs are made of glass and can break. Be careful when removing from packaging and installing or removing from a socket. If a CFL breaks:

- OPEN a window to allow the room to air out for 5–10 minutes.
- People and pets should LEAVE the room.
- TURN OFF forced air heating and/or air conditioning.
- COLLECT broken glass and visible powder using stiff cardboard, tape or a damp paper towel.
- PLACE the debris in a glass container with a metal cover in a safe location outside until you can dispose of it .
- CONTACT your local government to find out how to dispose of the jar containing the debris
- CONTINUE airing out the room for several hours.

## NOTE

Consider checking the Consumer Product Safety Commission ([cpsc.gov](http://cpsc.gov)) for recalls of CFLs that may present a fire danger.

## FACT

CFL bulbs contain a small trace of **mercury** within the glass. When broken, mercury will immediately dissipate into the air. Concentrations of mercury will likely approach zero in an hour or so.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

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