



Build It Back Green

Use Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) and Dimmers

BENEFITS

According to the Department of Energy, 11% of the energy used in homes is for lighting.

Replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), installing dimmer switches, and maximizing natural daylight can **reduce the amount of energy used for lighting in your home by 50% to 75%**.

DESCRIPTION & CHARACTERISTICS

Using CFLs and dimmer switches, and increasing the amount of natural daylight in your home are some of the easiest ways to save energy and money.

Compact Fluorescent Lights

- CFLs are miniature versions of full-sized fluorescents.
- Many CFLs are designed to replace an incandescent bulb and can fit in the existing light fixtures used for incandescents.
- CFLs use $\frac{1}{4}$ of the energy of incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. For example, a 15 watt CFL can replace and produce light comparable to a 60 watt incandescent bulb.
- CFLs can provide varying shades of white light, including light that mimics natural daylight.
- CFLs come in a variety of shapes and sizes and can be used in recessed fixtures, table lamps, track lighting, ceiling fixtures, porch lights, 3-way lamps, and with dimmer switches.



Dimmer Switches

- A dimmer switch is a type of light switch that allows a light to be dimmed or brightened continuously.
- The dimmer the light is, the more energy you save.
- Dimmer switches not only save you money on the energy used to light a bulb, they also save you money by increasing the lifespan of the bulb.



Daylighting

- Daylighting is the use of natural sunlight to provide lighting for the inside of a building.
- South-facing windows are best for daylighting because they allow most winter sunlight into the home but little direct sun and heat gain during the summer, especially when properly shaded.
- North-facing windows are also good for daylighting because they admit light that produces no glare and almost no unwanted summer heat gain.

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT & INSTALLATION TIPS

- Install a CFL just like you would an incandescent bulb.
- Install a dimmer switch like you would a regular switch.
- Using a dimmer switch with a dimmable CFL is an easy and inexpensive money saving combination!

PRODUCT TYPES & PRICES

- The estimated cost of CFLs can range from \$2 to \$5 depending on the shade of white light. The estimated cost of installing CFLs in a typical 1200 square foot shotgun house can range from \$80 to \$200.
- The estimated cost of dimmer switches can range from \$8 to \$20. The estimated cost of installing dimmer switches in a typical 1200 square foot shotgun house can range from \$40 to \$100.
- CFLs and dimmer switches may be purchased at Home Depot. Other local suppliers are identified on the **Vendors List** available on our website at globalgreen.org/bibg and in the **New Orleans Green Building Resource Center** at 841 Carondelet Street.