

THE TALE OF TWO LIGHT BULBS

Don't be tricked...

A 50 cent lightbulb costs more than a \$20 lightbulb!

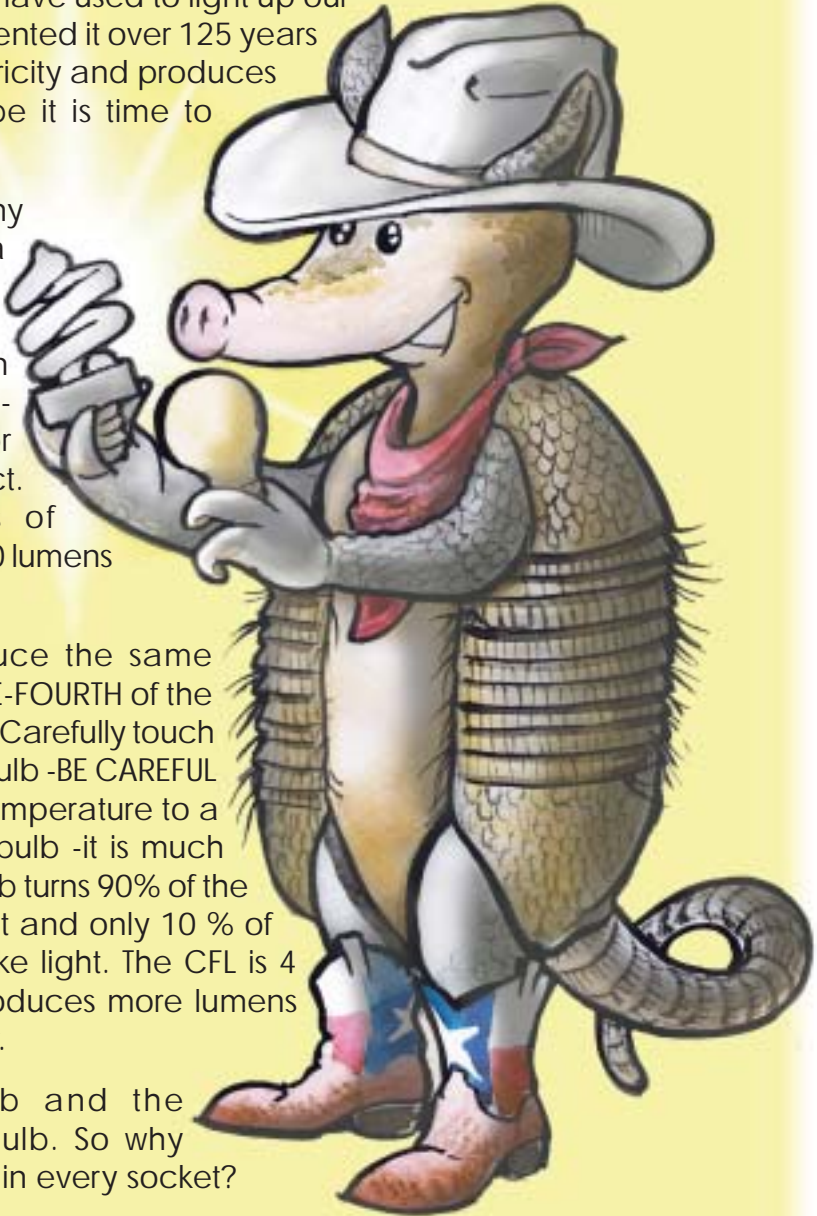
Let's compare...on one hand we have a 75w incandescent bulb just like we all have in our homes. It is what we have used to light up our lives since Thomas Edison invented it over 125 years ago. It uses 75 Watts of electricity and produces 1200 lumens of light. Maybe it is time to rethink that old standby.

On the other hand, the funny looking lightbulb is a Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb or CFL. It is just like the long tubes we see in schools and stores -except- the tube is spiral shaped or "folded" to be more compact. This bulb uses 20 Watts of electricity and produces 1200 lumens of light.

How is it possible to produce the same amount of light with only ONE-FOURTH of the electricity? Try this simple test: Carefully touch the top of an incandescent bulb -BE CAREFUL it is hot! Now compare the temperature to a Compact Fluorescent Light bulb -it is much cooler. The incandescent bulb turns 90% of the energy it consumes into heat and only 10 % of the electricity is used to make light. The CFL is 4 times more efficient and produces more lumens of light per Watt of electricity.

The CFL is a Smart Bulb and the incandescent is a Dumb Bulb. So why doesn't everyone have CFLs in every socket?

Old habits are hard to change. Most people don't consider the cost of energy for light bulbs (or other appliances)- they just look at the cost to buy the bulbs. Cheap bulbs seem like a good deal. CFLs are more expensive than incandescent bulbs but they pay for themselves through lower energy use. Check the chart to see how much you can save.



Incandescent vs. Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs)



Bulb Type	75W Incandescent	20W CFL
Lumens Produced	1,200	1,200
Purchase Price	\$0.50	\$20.00
Life of the Bulb	750 hours (or 1/2 of year)	Up to 10,000 hours (or 6.8years)
Number of Hours Burned per Day	4 hours per day (1,460 hours/year)	4 hours per day (1,460 hours/year)
Number of Bulbs Needed to equal life of CFL	~13.1	1
Total Cost of Purchasing Bulbs	\$6.50	\$20.00
Kilo Watss Hours (kWh) (1000 Watt hours)	75Wx10,000 hrs= 750,000 Watt hrs/1000= 750 kWh	20Wx10,000 hrs= 200,000 Watt hrs/1000= 200
Total Cost of Electricity (10 cents x kilowatt-hour)	\$75.00	\$20
Total cost over the 6.8 years	\$83.50	\$40.00
Total Savings using a CFL compared to an incandescent bulb:	\$43.50	---

*Note: 20W CFLs are available for \$3.00. The equivalent total savings would be \$60.50. However, even a \$20 CFL light bulbs is cheaper than a 50 cent incandescent bulb.

Change your most often used bulbs and save on your light bill. Do you leave the porch light on for security? Which lights in your living room are on four or more hours per day? Don't wait for a bulb to burn out-save the incandescent bulbs you replace and use them in closets or little used sockets.

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