



THE *BUZZ* ABOUT LED BULBS

LED bulbs have the potential to make the Earth, your wallet, and even your living room just a bit greener.

A slow burn

LEDs last 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Though the California is phasing incandescent bulbs out of production, you may still have a pack or two lurking on your shelves. Toss them out and upgrade. It will save you money in the long run. LEDs last three times longer than compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

60% of the electricity used by an LED is converted to light, which means it uses a lot less electricity, and doesn't heat up like incandescents and CFLs. To compare, only 5-10% of the electricity used to power an incandescent light bulb generates light. The rest is wasted as heat!

Overall, LEDs can last as long as a decade before they dim (that's right, LEDs never burn out!)

Breaking badly

Incandescents and CFLs break easily and shatter upon impact. LEDs are much more resilient to breakage. Most are equipped with a shatterproof coating that prevents sharp pieces of glass from flying out.

However, all types of light bulbs contain toxic heavy metals. Handle broken light bulbs with gloves. Treat all light bulbs as household hazardous waste and dispose of them accordingly.

Endless possibilities

If you're looking to liven up your living space, there's a whole world of LED color and technology awaiting you. LED bulbs come in a large assortment of colors, not to mention classics like "Daylight" and "Warm light".

Some LED bulbs come with special features that can be activated by a remote or smart phone. Feel creative? Make the lights pulse, change colors or adjust depending on the time of day.

What's the catch?

Basic LEDs cost a bit more than CFLs, but don't let the price tag scare you off. It's still a good deal when you consider the amount you will save in energy and replacement costs. Four packs of 40-60 watt CFLs are sold around \$8 apiece. The 40 and 60 watt LED equivalents are priced at \$10 and \$13, respectively, for one bulb.

If you use reading glasses, purchase the brighter 75-100 watt LED equivalents, which are more expensive than the standard 40-60 watt equivalents.

Hope you found this information helpful! If you or someone you know is looking to list or buy a home, I'm just a phone call away!