

Save up to 70% on your Monthly Lighting Bill

Have a lightbulb moment that can reduce your hydro bill and carbon footprint

Lighting makes up [20-30%](#) of your hydro bill and working to curtail this can save you money and reduce your impact on the environment. To find the home improvements that will help you to save the most money this fall, use our free [home energy savings calculator](#).

Replace your Lightbulbs

Compact florescent light bulbs (CFLs) use [75% less energy](#) than incandescent bulbs. Switching out your lights can be expensive, but you will save money in the long run. Using CFLs can drop your lighting contribution to just 3% of your hydro bill for savings of [\\$100-\\$150 annually](#). The disadvantage of CFLs is that they contain mercury. If you happen to break one, you must take care to dispose of the mercury carefully. Find how to safely clean up a broken CFL [here](#).

LEDs are also an eco-friendly lighting option as they use about [20-25% of the energy](#) incandescent bulbs use and they last [twenty-five times longer](#). LEDs do not contain mercury.

Replacing all your lights at once can prove to be expensive, so phase them out instead. Even switching out the five most used lights in your home can save you [\\$75 a year](#).

Use Solar Lights

[Solar lights](#) are an excellent option for outdoor lighting as they have zero running costs, are virtually maintenance free and keep working even when inclement weather results in power outages.

Use Task Lighting

Modern homes tend to rely heavily on numerous pot lights to light entire rooms, but a few strategically-placed lamps can help to only light the areas you need illuminated. Using lamps will reduce your overall energy usage.

Lamps are best placed in corners where they can reflect the light. Dust your lamps and lightbulbs regularly so you're maximizing their [lumen output](#).

Turn your Lights Down Low

You don't always need lights at full strength, so dimmer switches allow you to create mood lighting and save money at the same time. Dimmer switches are really neat—they work with a TRIAC switch which actually turns the light on and off [120 times a second](#), so you use less energy. Ensure that the bulbs you choose are compatible with dimmer switches. Using the wrong bulbs can pose a fire hazard.

Even better than a dimmer switch is to turn the lights off altogether. Getting into the habit of turning off the lights can be difficult for some home occupants. If you find this is the case, consider a [motion-activated switch](#) which turns the lights off when it hasn't detected motion in the room for some time.

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