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](epa.gov/cfl/cflrecycling) 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 jar or a plastic bag in a safe location outside until you can dispose of it.
- **Contact** your local government to find out how to dispose of the debris.
- **Continue** airing out the room for several hours.

**NOTE**

Consider checking the Consumer Product Safety Commission ([cpsc.gov](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.