



## FACT SHEET

### Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) Bulbs



Modern landfills are designed to handle a certain amount of household hazardous waste. However, items like CFL bulbs shouldn't be put in the garbage when better options are available. Check out what's available in your area by contacting:

- Your garbage service provider – Look on your bill and call the customer service number.
- Your local utility company. Check on the “recycleabulb” site below.
- Local government – [Contact your county solid waste coordinator.](#)
- Stores – Home Depot and IKEA have CFL bulb recycling programs.

For other options, go to <http://earth911.com/> and search under your ZIP code or these sites:

<https://www.thinkgreenfromhome.com/ThinkGreenFromHome.cfm>

### Returns

If the bulb burns out early and you have the receipt, you might try taking the burned-out bulb to the store and asking for a replacement. [Energy Star](#) has a suggestion if you don't have the receipt:

**Question:** My CFL burned out before the packaging stated it should. What can I do to get my money back? I don't have the original packaging or receipt.

**Answer:** If your [ENERGY STAR qualified CFL](#) product burns out before it should, look at the CFL base to find the manufacturer's name. Visit the manufacturer's web site to find the customer service contact information to inquire about a refund or replacement. Manufacturers producing ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs are required to offer at least a 2-year limited warranty (covering manufacturer defects) for residential applications. In the future, save your receipts to document the date of purchase. In addition, the ENERGY STAR program monitors all CFL early failures. Please bring product failures to our attention by e-mailing us at [cfl@energystar.gov](mailto:cfl@energystar.gov), be sure to include the manufacturer's name and product model number. We can also help you track down the manufacturer's contact information.

### Broken bulbs

One cautionary note, CFL bulbs do contain mercury. If a bulb breaks, it is a good idea to follow cleanup procedures as detailed in the *Household Mercury Spill* fact sheet online here: <http://waste.ky.gov/RLA/Pages/Fact-Sheets>

### For more information

- **Energy Star FAQ on Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) and Mercury –** [http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/promotions/change\\_light/downloads/Fact\\_Sheet\\_Mercury.pdf](http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/promotions/change_light/downloads/Fact_Sheet_Mercury.pdf)
- **Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center publication –** <https://louisville.edu/kppc/publications>

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