

## EPA Updates CFL Clean Up Guidance

By Roger Wick

U.S. EPA recently updated guidance on how to safely clean up a broken compact fluorescent lamp (CFL). To make the lamp illuminate, CFLs contain around three to five milligrams of mercury that vaporizes when the CFL is turned on. If the tubing breaks, the mercury vapor, which poses a potential health risk if inhaled, is released.

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The new cleanup guidance can be found on the U.S. EPA website: [www.epa.gov/cflcleanup](http://www.epa.gov/cflcleanup)  
 More information on CFLs can be found on Ohio EPA's webpage [Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs – What Consumer Need to Know](#).

## Choosing the Right CFL

Here is some information to help you make the right choices when buying incandescent bulbs.

Wattage: Energy Star provides the following conversion chart for people looking to replace an incandescent bulb with an Energy Star-qualified CFL bulb.

- 40-watt incandescent = 450 lumens (minimum light output) = 9 to 13 watt CFL
- 60-watt incandescent = 800 lumens (minimum light output) = 13 to 15 watt CFL
- 75-watt incandescent = 1,100 lumens (minimum light output) = 18 to 25 watt CFL
- 100-watt incandescent = 1,600 lumens (minimum light output) = 23 to 30 watt CFL
- 150-watt incandescent = 2,600 lumens (minimum light output) = 30 to 52 watt CFL



## Did You Know?

According to [EnergyStar.gov](http://EnergyStar.gov) - If every American home replaced just one light with an Energy Star-qualified light, we would save enough energy to light 3 million homes for a year; save about \$600 million in annual energy costs; and prevent 9 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions per year, equivalent to those from about 800,000 cars.