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BRIGHT IDEAS

Approximately **40%** of all energy consumed in buildings is used for lighting, so here's your chance to save energy all the year round. **What options do you have?**

- 1** Simply **switching off** lighting when you don't need it (i.e. in spaces that you are not using and switching off out of hours) is a great place to start.
- 2** If you haven't replaced your light bulbs for quite a while you're in for a surprise because changing them with up to date types will make a really big difference to your energy consumption, (e.g. if you're using standard incandescent light bulbs its definitely time to change). Incandescent bulbs are no longer in production, which means that energy saving bulbs are rapidly becoming the only light bulb of choice. Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL's) are already widely available in a broad range of shapes and sizes. They use less energy and last longer than incandescent lighting. **That's a quick win!**
- 3** **Light-emitting diodes (LED's)** - these are even more efficient, and the ideal replacement for halogen downlights.
- 4** Replace older type **T12 fluorescent tubes** with newer **T5 fluorescent**. These will use less energy. Like **CFL's**, modern tubes are more efficient, faster to light up and emit a better quality of light. Another option is to replace your tube lights with **LED**.
- 5** Switch off fluorescent tubes when leaving a room - a fluorescent tube uses more energy in 15 minutes than it takes to restart it.
- 6** It's also important to have the **right amount** of light, that it's not too high and not too low; try and keep it uniform with no dark spots.
Here is an interesting fact... the average in most buildings is around 30 watts/sq metre.
Well specified lighting designs that you find in modern spaces may well use only 8 watts/sq meter to do the same job. This is not easy to achieve on your own, but if you change to modern CFL's and take care with how you use your lighting you will make a saving.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE

Energy-saving light bulbs come in three types...



1 **Compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's)** - use less energy than an incandescent bulb, and are generally the cheapest option.



2 **Halogens** - use less energy than traditional incandescent, although they have a similar tungsten filament.



3 **LED's** - use less energy than an incandescent but are more expensive than a CFL.

BRIGHT IDEAS (CONT.)

7 Now that you've reduced the wattage of all those light bulbs and started saving energy you're going to reduce the excess heat in the room too. You can also save money by turning down the air conditioning.

8 Simple to **fit light sensors** are now readily available so you don't have to worry about switching off.

- ✓ Switch off unused lights
- ✓ Replace old bulbs
- ✓ The right amount of light
- ✓ Fit light sensors

Quick tips

If you have your Smart meter set to send half-hourly reads, you'll soon see how these tips can save on your energy bills

