

# EWG's GUIDE TO LIGHT BULBS



## START WITH THE FIXTURES YOU USE MOST



Choose CFLs for locations where breakage is rare—for instance, for ceiling fixtures rather than table lamps in high traffic areas or clip lamps.

## BUY A FEW TEST BULBS OF SEVERAL BRANDS



and try them out in different areas. With standard use, CFLs will last a long time—all the more reason to make sure that as you consult the EWG guide, you and your family are comfortable with their quality of light.

## BUY CFLS BULBS WITH THE LOWEST MERCURY CONTENT

The Energy Star logo is not a good indicator of low mercury bulbs. Instead choose from the 7 types EWG research shows have the least mercury:

*For online buying options visit [ewg.org/greenlightbulbs](http://ewg.org/greenlightbulbs)*



## CLEANING UP BROKEN CFL BULBS

If you break a bulb follow EWG's 10 step clean-up checklist

[ewg.org/greenlightbulbs](http://ewg.org/greenlightbulbs)

### The most critical steps to remember:

1. Keep children and pregnant or nursing women away from the contaminated area.
2. Close doors and open windows to allow volatile mercury vapors to vent outdoors.
3. Leave the site for 5 to 15 minutes.
4. Scoop up bulb fragments and use tape to collect tiny particles.
5. Seal the waste in a glass jar with screw-top lid.

Brand & Bulb Line	Mercury Per Bulb	Average Lifespan
Earthmate Mini-Size Bulbs (13, 15, 20, & 23 Watt)	about 1 mg	10,000 hours
Litetronics Neolite (10, 13, 15, 20, & 23 Watt)	about 1 mg	10,000 hours
Sylvania Micro-Mini (13, 20, & 23 Watts)	less than 1.5 mg	12,000 hours
Sylvania DURA-ONE (reflector bulbs)	less than 1.8 mg	15,000 hours
Feit Ecobulb	less than 2.5 mg	8-10,000 hours
MaxLite	1.2-2.5 mg	10,000 hours
Philips with Alto	1.23-2.7 mg	8-10,000 hours

**DON'T USE CFLS WHERE MERCURY EXPOSURE IS UNACCEPTABLE OR CLEANUP IS DIFFICULT**



—children's rooms, playrooms, recreation rooms, workbenches and near irreplaceable rugs and furniture.

**DON'T USE CFLS IN CLOSETS & OTHER SPOTS LIT FOR SHORT PERIODS**



CFLs take 10 to 15 minutes to reach optimum light and energy efficiency.

**USE MERCURY-FREE BULBS**



such as LED (light emitting diodes) or halogen energy savers where CFLs don't work. Also consider them for stairs and hallways where a CFL's slow start-up poses a safety risk.