# DIY: Installing Energy Efficient Lightbulbs

**Priority**: High

**Difficulty Level:** Very Easy

**Time Commitment:** Less than five minutes per bulb

**Physical Requirements:** Involves climbing a step ladder for many light fixtures

## Purpose

Changing incandescent bulbs to LEDs significantly reduces energy consumption by 75–80%, lowers electricity bills, and decreases carbon emissions. While both CFLs and LEDs are efficient, LEDs are superior, lasting 15–25 years (compared to 10 for CFLs), containing no mercury, emitting less heat, and providing better light quality.

## Indicators that this Action is worth doing in your home

- If old lightbulbs need to be replaced.
- If any lightbulbs you're using are incandescent
    - If you can see inside the bulb, check for a glowing filament (a thin, coiled wire) which generally means the bulb is incandescent.
        - LED bulbs often have a label or etching with "LED" at the base.
    - After the light has been on for a few minutes, carefully touch the bulb to check for heat. Incandescent lights will be very hot, while LEDs will not have much of a noticeable temperature.
    - If the bulbs have a slight delay to full brightness after you turn them on, they are likely incandescent.

## Video:

How LED Bulbs Can Cut Your Lighting Costs

## Material Needed

- LED bulbs
- Step stool or ladder (for bulbs in hard-to-reach places)

## Directions:

- Locate any bulbs in the home that are incandescent or other inefficient bulb and switch out with LED bulbs. Try out the new bulb to ensure it is providing sufficient lighting as the previous bulb.

## Tips:

- You can find a guide from the Dept. of Energy on how to choose the best energy-efficient lightbulbs for your home here.
- Remember to check lamps, as well as ceiling lights.