



# Consumer Affairs Tabloid



Keeping you in the "KNOW"

287- CITY

Army Community Service Financial Readiness Branch

February 2008

## Excerpt from: Energy Star

[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)  
Frequently Asked Questions - Information on Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) and Mercury

### Why should people use CFLs?

Switching from traditional light bulbs to CFLs is an effective, accessible change every American can make right now to reduce energy use at home and prevent greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. Lighting accounts for close to 20 percent of the average home's electric bill. ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy than incandescent light bulbs, last up to 10 times longer, cost little up front, and provide a quick return on investment.

### Do CFLs contain mercury?

CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing – an average of 5 milligrams – about the amount that would cover the tip of a ballpoint pen. By comparison, older thermometers contain about 500 milligrams of mercury. It would take 100 CFLs to equal that amount.

### What should I do with a CFL when it burns out?

EPA recommends that consumers take advantage of available local recycling options for compact fluorescent light bulbs. EPA is working with CFL manufacturers and major U.S. retailers to expand recycling and disposal options.

If your state permits you to put used or broken CFLs in the garbage, seal the bulb in two plastic bags and put it into the outside trash, or other protected outside location, for the next normal trash collection. CFLs should not be disposed of in an incinerator.

\*\*\* See above link for more information on what to do if a CFL bulb breaks\*\*\*

**Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs can only be accepted at the following location:  
Bldg 1348, on North Ave - phone number 288-7627**

Excerpt from : [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov)  
Gas Mileage Tips:



### Keep Your Engine Properly Tuned

Fixing a car that is noticeably out of tune or has failed an emissions test can improve its gas mileage by an average of 4 percent, though results vary based on the kind of repair and how well it is done.

Fixing a serious maintenance problem, such as a faulty oxygen sensor, can improve your mileage by as much as 40 percent.

Fuel Economy Benefit: 4%    Equivalent Gasoline Savings: \$0.12/gallon

See above link for more tips on how driving more efficiently, planning and combining trips, and choosing a more efficient vehicle can result in additional cost savings.

## Excerpt from: The Federal Trade Commission

### Saving Starts @ Home: The Inside Story on Conserving Energy [www.ftc.gov/energysavings](http://www.ftc.gov/energysavings)

While shopping, look for the Energy Star logo. To earn the logo, appliances must meet strict standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Department of Energy. Since Energy Star products use less energy, they can save you money and help protect the environment. Learn more about the Energy Star program at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

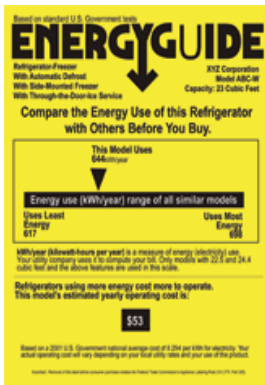
To make an energy-smart decision:

**Select the appropriate size and style** . Measure the space in your kitchen to be sure your new appliance will fit. Make sure that you have room to open the door fully and have enough clearance for ventilation.

**Factor in the operating cost as well as the purchase price.** Check out your choices for refrigerators, washers, and dishwashers on the FTC's Appliance Energy Database. Use the *EnergyGuide* label to compare choices. Look for the *Energy Star* logo to find the most energy-efficient models.

**Know where to shop.** Appliance outlets, electronics stores, local retailers, and Internet sites often carry the same brands and models. Once you've narrowed your choices, compare deals.

**Ask about special offers** . Your local utility company may offer cash rebates, low-interest loans, or other incentive programs if you buy energy-efficient appliances.



### From the Files of Fort Hood's Consumer Affairs Office

Like most people I am concerned about doing my part for the environment; however, because I might lack the knowledge or out of sheer laziness I don't always do the right thing.

Last week I went to the store, picked up a package of CFL bulbs and read the fine print and cautions. On the back was the Warning: "Contains Mercury." There was also a website listed for individuals to go to for more information and for proper disposal procedures.

I wonder how many people completely read the package, in addition to the manual and inserts, for any new or different products they purchase. Do you read the fine print?

Go to [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) for more information on the environment.

Go to [www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=cfls.pr\\_cfls](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=cfls.pr_cfls) for more information on Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs.

Back issues of the Consumer Affairs Tabloid are available on the Financial Readiness section of the ACS website at [www.hoodmwr.com/acs](http://www.hoodmwr.com/acs).

Have questions? Email: [melody.squires@us.army.mil](mailto:melody.squires@us.army.mil) or call 287-CITY (2489)

