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CFL Sizes and Shapes

CFLs come in a variety of shapes and sizes. The majority of CFLs are designed to look identical to the incandescent light bulb version. The table below identifies the most popular CFL shapes that are available at retail:

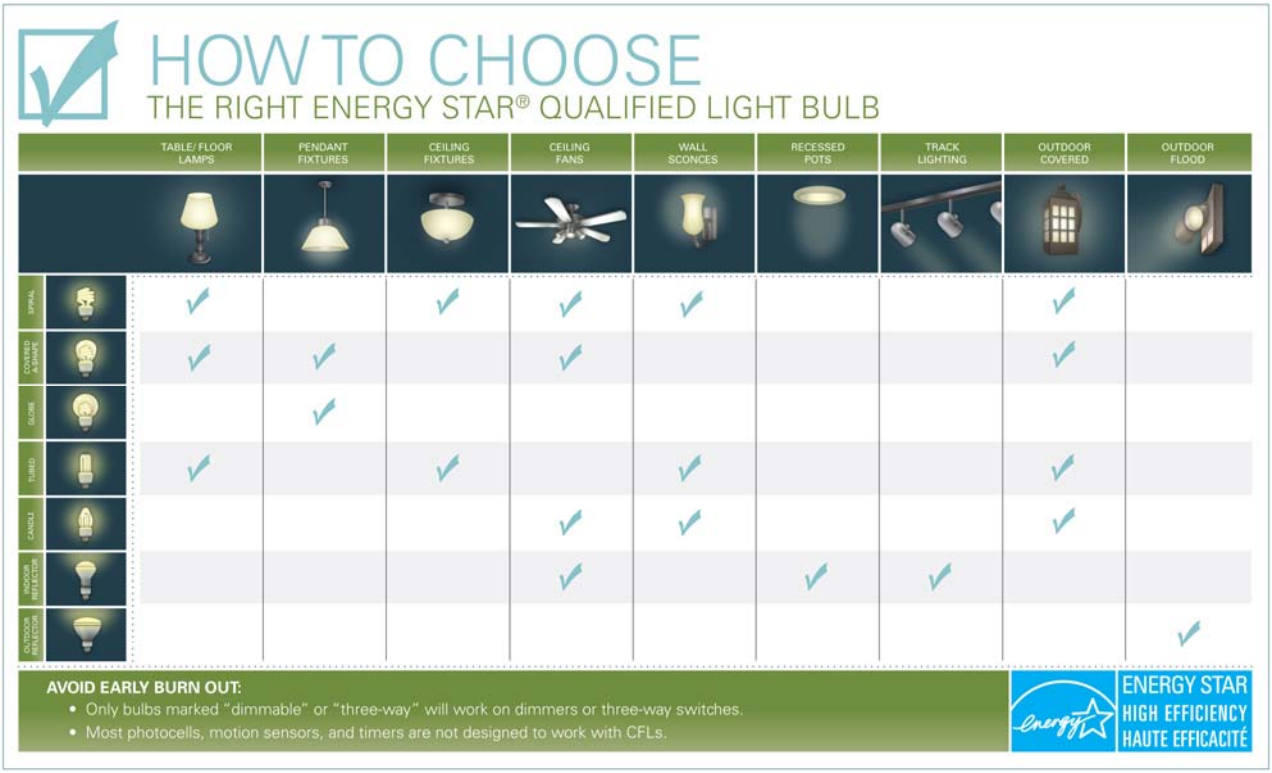
Bare Products		**Covered Products***			**Reflector Products**
Mini-Spiral or Twist	Tube or Universal	Incandescent/ A-line	Globe G25, G30, G40	Candelabra, Post or Bullet Shape	Indoor and Outdoor R20, R30, R40, PAR38
					

Where to Use CFLs Around Your Home

The following chart provides guidance on how to choose the best CFL for a specific fixture. You can either look for the fixture you want to use a CFL in, or pick your favourite CFL and see where the best fixtures to use it in. In many cases, a certain CFL type can be used in multiple fixtures. For example, today's bare spiral CFL is small enough to use in table lamps, wall sconces, ceiling-mounted fixtures, ceiling fans, etc.

*Covered bulbs have a traditional lamp shape with either a spiral or tube lamp inside

For more information see Natural Resources Canada



Shapes and Sizes

The ENERGY STAR CFL search can help you find a specific bulb to meet your needs or see if a particular model is qualified.

Remember:

- Only bulbs marked "dimmable" will work on dimmer switches.
- Only bulbs marked "three-way" will work on three-way sockets.
- Most photocells, motion sensors, and electronic timers are not designed to work with CFLs. Check with the photocell or timer manufacturer and the CFL packaging for compatibility.

Spirals

If these spiral-shaped bulbs look familiar it's because they're the most popular type of CFL. Spiral CFLs create the same amount of light as traditional incandescent bulbs, but use less energy.

A-Shaped

A-shaped bulbs combine the efficiency of the spiral bulbs, with the look and feel of the traditional incandescent bulbs. These products are great for consumers who don't like the look of the spiral bulbs but still want efficient lighting.

Globe

Globe-shaped bulbs are ideal for bathroom vanity bars and ceiling pendants. Like other covered CFLs, globes need a little time to "warm up" and reach full brightness. But be patient — ENERGY STAR qualified light bulbs generate just as much light as traditional bulbs, while using less energy.

Tubed

Some of the first ENERGY STAR qualified light bulbs were tube shaped. Basically straight versions of the spiral bulbs, tubed bulbs work well in lamps that have slender covers such as wall sconces.

Candle

These products are ideal for use in decorative fixtures where you can see the light bulb. The sleek shape also allows you to use them in tight fitting light fixtures where a covered globe won't fit.

Posts

Covered post bulbs are great for outdoor fixtures; manufacturers design these bulbs to hold up to outdoor conditions. There are also yellow "bug light" covered posts, designed to keep away insects. Check compatibility with timers and photocells.

Indoor Reflectors

Reflector bulbs are perfect for providing directional light — think of recessed ceiling lights in kitchens or ceiling fans. Indoor reflector bulbs are much smaller then those that are designed for outdoor use. Some are small enough to fit in ceiling fan lights, and some can be used with a dimmer — the packaging will tell you.

Outdoor Reflectors

For use outside, reflector bulbs are sealed to withstand the rain and snow. Because of this, they're usually much larger then the reflectors designed for use inside. Don't use the outdoor reflectors with timers, photocells, and motion sensors because you could shorten the life of the bulbs.