



SOUTH BAY

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CENTER

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

SPRING – TIME FOR HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Whether you are sprucing up your home to sell or making it nicer for your own enjoyment, home improvements can make our living spaces more beautiful and comfortable to enjoy, and they can also release a home's hidden potential. Implementing energy efficient upgrades enhances our experience within the home, while saving us money on our energy bills, reducing unnecessary waste and helping California meet its energy goals.

By making practical and cost-effective changes, residents can maximize the potential of their own home while doing their part to help California "Stay Golden." One such change that is also relatively easy is to **update lighting to energy-efficient bulbs**. Traditional incandescent light bulbs give off 90 percent of their energy as heat, which translates into money wasted. Switching to energy-efficient lighting can recoup some of these costs and offer a refreshed look to your home. Choosing the right energy-efficient light can create the perfect ambiance in your home.

What are the options?

Halogen incandescent lights emit a soft warm glow similar to traditional incandescent light bulbs, but use roughly 25 percent less energy. Halogen incandescents are often used for flood or spot lighting, indoor recessed and track fixtures, and floor and desk lamps.



LED (light emitting diode) lights use 75 percent less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lights, making them one of today's most energy-efficient lighting options. Their rich, white color makes them an excellent replacement for traditional bulbs, and they are often an efficient option for recessed downlights and task lighting.

What should you look for?

When shopping for your new energy-efficient lighting, keep an eye out for ENERGY STAR® products. ENERGY STAR® light bulbs are higher quality, perform more efficiently and last longer than standard energy efficient bulbs. Manufacturers strive to achieve the ENERGY

STAR® logo. ENERGY STAR® LED bulbs last longer than traditional incandescents, and can save you up to \$80 in electricity costs over the lifetime of the bulb.

Another thing to notice when looking for energy-efficient light bulbs is the rating by **lumens**, not watts. Lumens are a measure of the amount of brightness a bulb puts out, while watts are a measure of the energy used. Checking the lumens, rather than watts, will give you an indication of the bulb's brightness and help you to better understand how a light will look in your home.

Take color into consideration when updating your home lighting. Light color is measured on the Kelvin temperature scale. Lower Kelvin numbers mean the light appears more yellow and higher Kelvin numbers mean the light is whiter or bluer.

- For warm or soft, white, look for bulbs marked 2,700-3,000K.
- For a whiter light, look for bulbs marked 3,500-4,000K.
- For bluer white light, look for bulbs marked 5,000-6,500K.

For more information, please contact the SBCCOG's Environmental Services Center at 310-371-7222 or go to www.energyupgradeca.org.