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A Bright Idea to Save on Your Electricity Bill: Energy Efficient Lighting

Lighting is one of the most essential functions of a modern day home. It is also one of the most overlooked. It is crucial to completing basic, everyday tasks after the sun goes down. It also gives us a sense of safety and security. On top of this, it has the ability to affect moods and our own, personal comfort.

Lighting also affects our budgets, in terms of its consumption. We Americans spend anywhere from as little as 5% to as much as 25% of their annual electric bills on lighting in our homes alone. That's a decent amount of money you could be making use of elsewhere, if only you could find a way to more efficiently use light. Here are some basic and simple tips to achieving energy efficiency in your own home.

Two methods exist to help you save lighting energy in your homes. One of the options available to you is to consider reducing the consumption rate of your home's light bulbs and fixtures. Consider purchasing light bulbs of a lower wattage, for example. Energy efficient light bulbs or fixtures can be almost identical to, if not brighter than, the lights you originally had, while still ultimately reducing the amount of electricity you actually use. You'll likely see an immediate result if you replace your old, inefficient incandescent light bulbs with incandescent halogen or compact fluorescent bulbs.

Reducing the length of time that lights are on in your home is a second way to save energy in your lighting system. By lessening the amount of time that lights are actually turned on in your home, this can be easily accomplished. Consider purchasing dimmers or other related lighting controls. When it's not completely necessary to have lights on in the first place, set a good example for other members of your family by explaining the importance of turning off lights.

There you have it. You were probably aware of these methods of energy conservation already. Light bulbs are also relatively cheap, and the increase in cost of purchasing more energy efficient light bulbs is almost certainly made up by their longer life spans. In addition, any hardware store employee should be able to explain the more intricate differences between certain types of energy efficient light bulbs and fixtures. There's no excuse not to implement a more efficient lighting plan now in your home. Plus, the extra money you save on your electricity can always come in handy.

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