Consumer Tips & Product Knowledge

Product	Instructions	Benefits
LIGHTING		
ENERGY STAR® qualified LEDs (specialty and general purpose)	• Look for the ENERGY STAR label since only these bulbs have met the guidelines that ensure energy-efficiency and light output. • Read the packaging carefully to ensure you are purchasing the right LED for the right fixture in your home. • Be particularly careful in selecting LEDs for special purposes such as enclosed recessed fixtures, with dimmer switches, with timers or where exposed to weather and/or water.	• LED bulbs are high quality, reliable, and long lasting. They can be used to replace a CFL bulb or an incandescent bulb. • Last up to 30 times longer than incandescent light bulbs. • Efficient and high quality light.
ENERGY STAR qualified specialty CFL light bulbs *(covered, decorative, dimmable, flood, spot, globe, candelabra, tri-light, etc.)* **and** **ENERGY STAR qualified spiral CFL light bulbs**	• CFL technology is continuously advancing and improving. As a consumer, it's important to carefully read the packaging to ensure the lights are suitable for your specific use. • Check the package to determine if the product is designed for use with any lighting control (dimmer switches, indoor timers, indoor motion sensors, etc.) and outdoor usage. • All wattages are eligible. • Measure the length and width of your current light bulb and match the CFL as closely as possible to that. If you're still unsure, carefully wrap your bulb and bring it with you to the store. • Replace CFLs at the first signs of aging – early aging signs include flickering, a bright red or orange glow, popping sounds, an odour or browning of the base. ***What should I look for when purchasing CFLs?*** • Look for the ENERGY STAR label since only these bulbs have met the guidelines that ensure energy-efficiency and light output. • Read the packaging carefully to ensure you are purchasing the right CFL for the right fixture in your home. • Be particularly careful in selecting CFLs for special purposes such as enclosed recessed fixtures, with dimmer switches, with timers or where exposed to weather and/or water.	• Use up to 75% less electricity than incandescent light bulbs. • Replacing 5 standard (60W) incandescent light bulbs with 13W ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs you can save up to $30 per year on your electricity costs. • Last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs.
LIGHTING CONTROLS & FIXTURES		
ENERGY STAR® qualified indoor light fixtures (hard wired)	• Check the package to determine if the product is designed for use with any type of eligible lighting control products (dimmer switches, indoor timers, indoor motion sensors, etc.) • Hire a licensed technician prior to installing	• ENERGY STAR qualified indoor light fixtures use one quarter the electricity of standard fixtures. • These light fixtures, designed for CFLs, take into consideration their particular light reflective properties and come in hundreds of decorative styles designed for dining room, kitchen ceiling, hallway ceiling and wall, bathroom vanity fixtures, and more. • Distribute light more efficiently and evenly than standard fixtures. • ENERGY STAR qualified indoor light fixtures carry a two year warranty – double the industry standard.
Lighting controls (hard wired) Dimmer Switches	• Before installing the dimmer switch, check to see if the bulbs you're using are compatible with that dimmer. • These devices replace your standard light Dimmers come in rotary, slide or switch styles to match a consumer's needs and décor. • These devices allow users to control the intensity and amount of light needed. • Dimmers work with all incandescent light bulbs, but not with all CFL light bulbs. Consumers should look for specially marked CFLs that are designed for use with a dimmer switch.	• Turning down the light level can save electricity and extend the life of light bulbs.
Lighting controls (hard wired) Motion Sensors	• Before installing the dimmer switch, check to see if the bulbs you're using are compatible with that dimmer. • These devices replace your standard light switch and are directly wired to your light(s).	• Ideal for those rooms where you may forget to turn off the lights and for kids' play rooms or any location where the lights do not have to be on all the time. • Many can be programmed to determine the amount of time without motion before shutting off. • Can provide security by lighting up hallways and garages automatically. • Although indoor motion sensors have a greater up-front cost than a traditional single-pole light switch, the savings can be immediate and long term.
Lighting controls (hard wired) Indoor timers – mechanical or digital	• Before installing the dimmer switch, check to see if the bulbs you're using are compatible with that dimmer. • These devices replace your standard light switch and are directly wired to your light(s).	• An indoor light switch timer allows the user to choose the amount of time to leave lights or fans on in a specific room. Some timers have the ability to be programmed to turn on and off intermittently; important when arriving home after dark or when away for a period of time. • These devices allow consumers to set appliances or lights to turn-on or shut-off at designated times, just when they are required.

ENERGY STAR® qualified ceiling fans	• The fan blades can be rotated to move the air downward in the summer to produce a cool breeze. • In the winter, the blades can be rotated upwards towards the ceiling to disperse the warm air that tends to accumulate there and distribute it more evenly in the room.	• A ceiling fan only requires 10% of the electricity needed to run compared to a window air conditioner. • ENERGY STAR qualified ceiling fans use 50% less energy than standard fans and move up to 25% more air. • Ceiling fans come in many decorative styles to complement the rooms throughout your home. • ENERGY STAR qualified ceiling fans carry a two year warranty – double the industry standard. •
POWER BARS & THERMOSTATS		
Power bars with integrated timers or auto-shutoff	• Power bars with built-in timers or with auto-shutoff allow you to control when power is available for appliances and electronic devices. • Ideally suited for computer workstations or home theatre systems, these power bars shut off electricity to electronic products typically left on or in "stand-by" mode. Even in "stand-by" these electronic devices consume electricity, often referred to as "phantom power". Devices such as power bars with timers or auto-shutoff reduces phantom power consumption.	• You can save up to 20% on your monthly electricity use by reducing the use of phantom power. • **Power bars with timers** allow you to automatically turn off electronics and appliances during the time of day in which they are unlikely to be used. • **Power bars with auto-shutoff** can detect when an electronic product (like a computer) goes into sleep mode. When this is detected, the power bar will shut down power to designated plugs it controls where devices like a DVD or Blu-Ray players, powered subwoofers, gaming consoles or monitors, speakers and printers are plugged in.
Programmable thermostats for electric baseboard heaters	• Only qualified electricians or heating, ventilation and air conditioning contractors (HVAC contractors) should install line-voltage programmable thermostats for electric baseboard heaters because the wiring carries higher voltages.	• Thermostats allow for customization of temperatures. • A properly programmed thermostat can reduce heating costs by up to 10%.
INSULATION		
Weatherstripping	*Preparation and installation is important. This usually involves the following steps.* • Adjust and square windows that are out of alignment. • Remove old weatherstripping, caulking and blobs of paint. If the surface is very uneven, apply a bead of caulking under the weatherstripping or fill and sand the surface to make it smooth. • Clean the surface with a clean cloth and fast-drying mineral spirits or MEK (methyl ethyl ketone). • Apply the weatherstripping. With doors and windows that are used often, you may want to reinforce the adhesive types with staples. • Check the window for smooth operation. • Periodically check the weatherstripping for wear.	• Weatherstripping improves comfort in the home by ensuring consistent temperatures by doors and windows. • Weatherstripping helps to reduce drafts in the home.
Pipe wraps	• Pipe wrap is generally used around the first metre of the cold water pipe coming into the hot water tank, and the two metres of pipe coming out of the hot water tank. • Do not place any pipe-wrap insulation within 15 cm of exhaust vents at the top of water heaters • Never insulate plastic pipes	• Pipe wrap helps to reduce heat loss and brings hot water to the faucet andshower faster. It helps to save electricity related to water heating.
Insulation blankets for electric water heaters	• These water heater blankets are only designed for electric water heaters. • Since you'll be working around electrical wires, shutoff the circuit breaker or take out the fuse before installing the blanket. • A water heater should have insulation with an R-value of at least R-24. • Hire a licensed electrician	• Electric water heater blankets can reduce energy loss by up to 40%.
OUTDOOR		
Heavy-duty outdoor timers for above-ground pool and spa pumps	• Do not install pool and/or spa pumps yourself. Hire a licensed electrician. • These timers are not recommended for use with pools or spas that use gas heaters. To help ensure your safety, your pool must be plugged into a Ground Fault Circuit Interpreter (GFCI) outlet located a minimum of 3 metres (10 feet) from your pool. Please contact the Pool Council of Canada at (800) 879-7066 or visit their website for more information. • Avoid using the pump between the peak hours of noon and 8 p.m. to help you save money during higher time-of-use rates. **NOTE**: The California Swimming Pool Industry Energy Conservation Task Force recommends: *"Reduce filter operating times to no less than 4 to 5 hours per day during the summer. This will reduce annual electrical consumption by 40 to 50 percent. Normal and heavier swimming use may require as much as eight or more hours filtration per day. If additional filtration is still indicated, increase filter operating time in one-half hour increments until the water remains clear and properly balanced chemically".*	• The second highest consumption of electricity in the summer (after air conditioners) is experienced by pool and hot tub owners. • Installing the timer on the pump can save you up to $50 a month on your electricity costs. • These timers should only be used with plug-in pumps (with 120 volts). • An electrician or pool maintenance company is recommended to install your timer. • A pool pump timer can keep the pump off during the day and circulate the water in the evenings and on the weekends to keep the pool clean and chemically balanced
Clotheslines	• Shake out clothing before hanging to diminish wrinkles. • Hang shirts and tops from the hem or tail so clothespin marks don't show.	• Drying just 2 loads of laundry a week on clotheslines – and not in your dryer – could save 46 kWh, or about $5.00 a summer. • Reduces the heat gain in your home requiring less energy from your air conditioner.