

In the Crosshairs-

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is a bit harsh initially and appears to have a slight blue tinge to it. With time your eyes become accustomed to it. These bulbs are definitely more expensive than incandescent lighting. I generally purchase them on sale in multi-packs at one of the big box stores for around \$2.00 - \$2.75 apiece. The manufacturers claim 8,000 to 10,000 hours for average bulb life. I have replaced at least six bulbs in the last 18 months that were nowhere near 8,000 hours of use. What is going on here? My research revealed - on the downside:

CFL's contain about 5 mg of mercury. That equates to 100-600x less than the amount of mercury contained in a fever thermometer.

Some people are unable to adjust to the "different" qualities of light emitted by a CFL.

CFL's are considered hazardous waste and should be recycled and not thrown in the trash. Check with your county hazardous waste collection center for recycling options.

CFL's require 30 seconds to 3.5 minutes to warm up to maximum light output and energy efficiency.

Repeated on/off cycles during the course of a day will shorten lamp life (I believe this is the reason for my reduced lamp life).

CFL's cannot be used with dimmer switches unless their packaging says "dimmable".

On the upside:

CFL's use 30% of the electricity required by a filament bulb of the same light output. Consumer Reports lists average savings for a 60W equivalent CFL at \$5.00/bulb/year if used an average of three hours/day.

Life expectancy is listed between 6 and 10 years (average of three hours per day) depending on the brand of bulb.

Quality is improving while pricing continues to drop.

Currently, compact fluorescent lamps definitely offer a "green" alternative for lighting your home. Hopefully recycling options will catch up with increasing consumer usage.

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(Editor's Note: If you have a rebuttal, addition, or comments on any In the Crosshairs column, feel free to submit to the Hole Notes magazine for publication. After all, isn't that what makes America great?)

It's in the Hole....

Assistants: It's Important To Submit Your External Education Approval Codes

Assistant Superintendents: Are you submitting your external education approval codes? By submitting those approval codes, you are jump starting your advancement through GCSAA membership levels by recording points that count towards entry requirements into Class A. It's not too late to record those approval codes: Simply submit them via the online education point affidavit found in the **My Points** section of the website.



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