

The original “sticker shock” of LED bulbs is no longer a deterrent to their widespread acceptance by consumers. The following comparison charts illustrate the value of the latest LED bulbs when compared with CFLs and incandescent bulbs for overall efficiency as well as cost-effectiveness.

Cost Comparison Between LEDs, CFLs, and Incandescent Light Bulbs

	LED	CFL	Incandescent
Light bulb projected lifespan	25,000 hours	10,000 hours	1,200 hours
Watts per bulb (equiv. 60 watts)	8.5	14	60
Cost per bulb	\$5	\$2	\$1
KWh of electricity used over 25,000 hours	212.5	350	1500
Cost of electricity (@ 0.10 per KWh)	\$21.25	\$35	\$150
Bulbs needed for 25,000 hours of use	1	2.5	21
Equivalent 25,000 hours bulb expense	\$5	\$5	\$21
Total cost for 25,000 hours	\$26.25	\$40	\$171
Energy Savings over 25,000 hours, assuming 25 bulbs per household			
Total cost for 25 bulbs	\$656.25	\$1000	\$4275
Savings to household by switching from incandescent bulbs	\$3618.75	\$3275	\$0

Additional Notes:

- Cost of electricity will vary depending on where you live. The figures used above are for comparison only, and are not exact. Residential energy costs among the various states that were used to create this chart range anywhere from 26.17 cents (Hawaii) to 7.4 cents (Washington) per KWh.
- The cost per bulb for LEDs will also vary. We used the figure of \$5.00 (for a 60 watt equivalent LED bulb) as an average among lighting retailers.
- Estimates of bulb lifespan are projected, since it would take about 6 years of continuous lighting to test. Some manufacturers claim the new LED bulbs will last up to 25 years under normal household use, but this is not proven.
- Bulb breakage and bulb replacement costs have not been factored into this comparison chart. Incandescent bulbs and CFL bulbs are more easily broken than LEDs, which increases their cost of use.
- Most LEDs come with a minimum 2-year guarantee. Any defective LED bulb will usually fail within this time.