



7/26/10

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
Public Information Office

Public Service Announcement

0800 Hrs

For Immediate Release PST
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Compact Fluorescent Lamps Safety Information

As with any product that comes with instructions and/or warning labels, consumers often times overlook the very important safety information that they contain.

Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) have very specific information that consumers don't want to overlook. In some cases, this mistake has resulted in preventable fires.

The first and most important recommendation from the San Francisco Fire Marshal regarding any product with a potential fire hazard is to read the instructions for installation, limitations and warnings that are provided with the product.

Other important safety information (sometimes printed on the bulb itself) related to CFLs that, if overlooked, can translate into a fire hazard are outlined below:

- CFLs should not be used in track, recessed or inverted fixtures
- CFLs should not be used with a dimmer switch unless clearly marked otherwise
- CFLs should not be used in place of a 3-way bulb, unless clearly marked otherwise
- CFLs being used outdoors must be enclosed
- CFLs should not be used in emergency exit fixtures or lights

While It's true that using CFLs saves energy, it is also important to note that the use of CFLs comes along with the responsibility of proper usage and disposal of them. For more information on CFLs log on to <http://www.ewg.org/greenlightbulbs>

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