

101 Low-Cost / No-Cost Home Energy-Saving Measures for South Carolina



Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperatives
of South Carolina

The power of human connections[®]

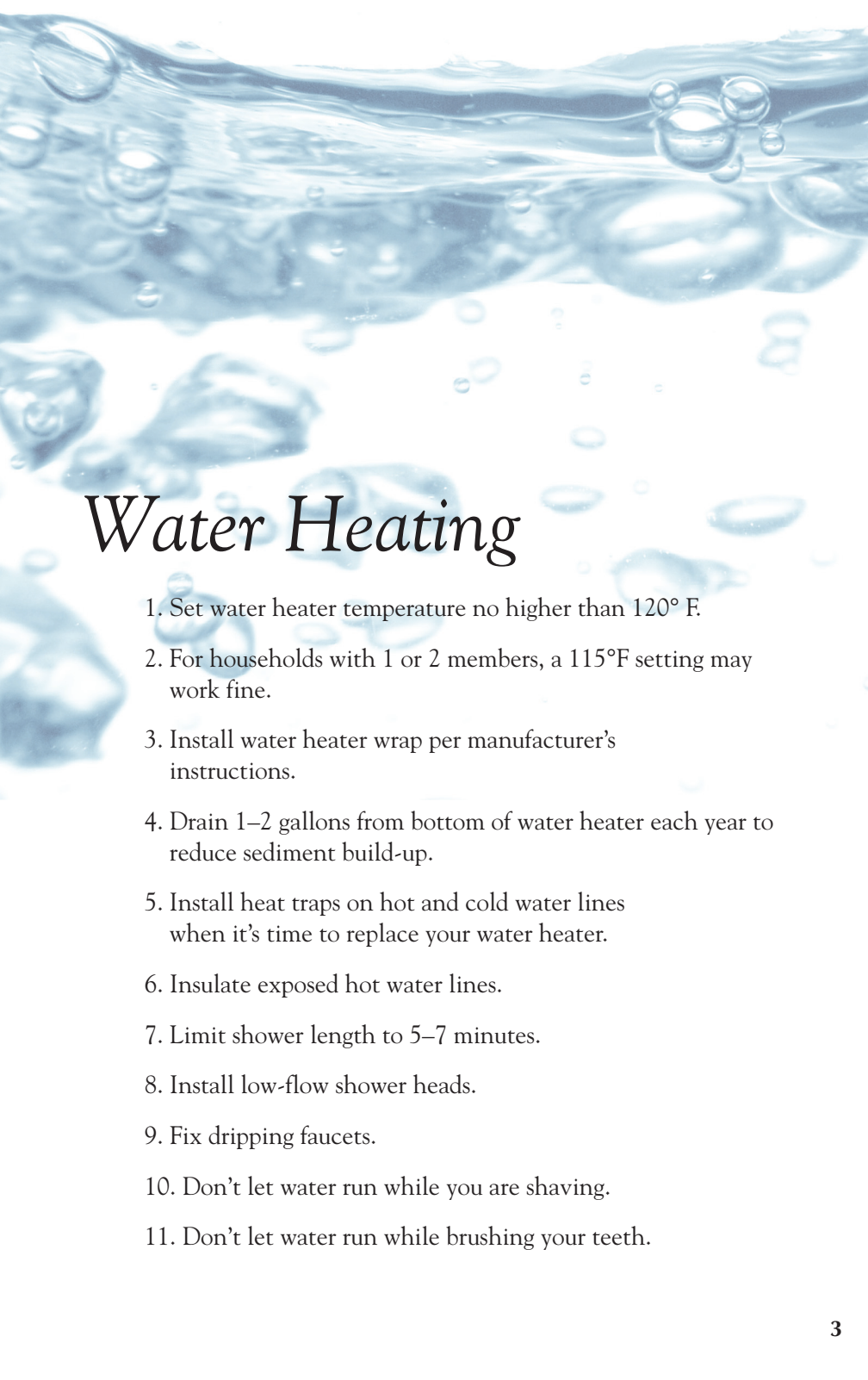
www.scliving.coop

Your Touchstone Energy
Cooperatives have compiled
this list of low-cost / no-cost
energy-saving measures
to help you better manage
your home's energy costs.

Thanks for being our member.



For more helpful energy-saving hints,
visit ***www.togetherwesave.coop***



Water Heating

1. Set water heater temperature no higher than 120° F.
2. For households with 1 or 2 members, a 115°F setting may work fine.
3. Install water heater wrap per manufacturer's instructions.
4. Drain 1–2 gallons from bottom of water heater each year to reduce sediment build-up.
5. Install heat traps on hot and cold water lines when it's time to replace your water heater.
6. Insulate exposed hot water lines.
7. Limit shower length to 5–7 minutes.
8. Install low-flow shower heads.
9. Fix dripping faucets.
10. Don't let water run while you are shaving.
11. Don't let water run while brushing your teeth.

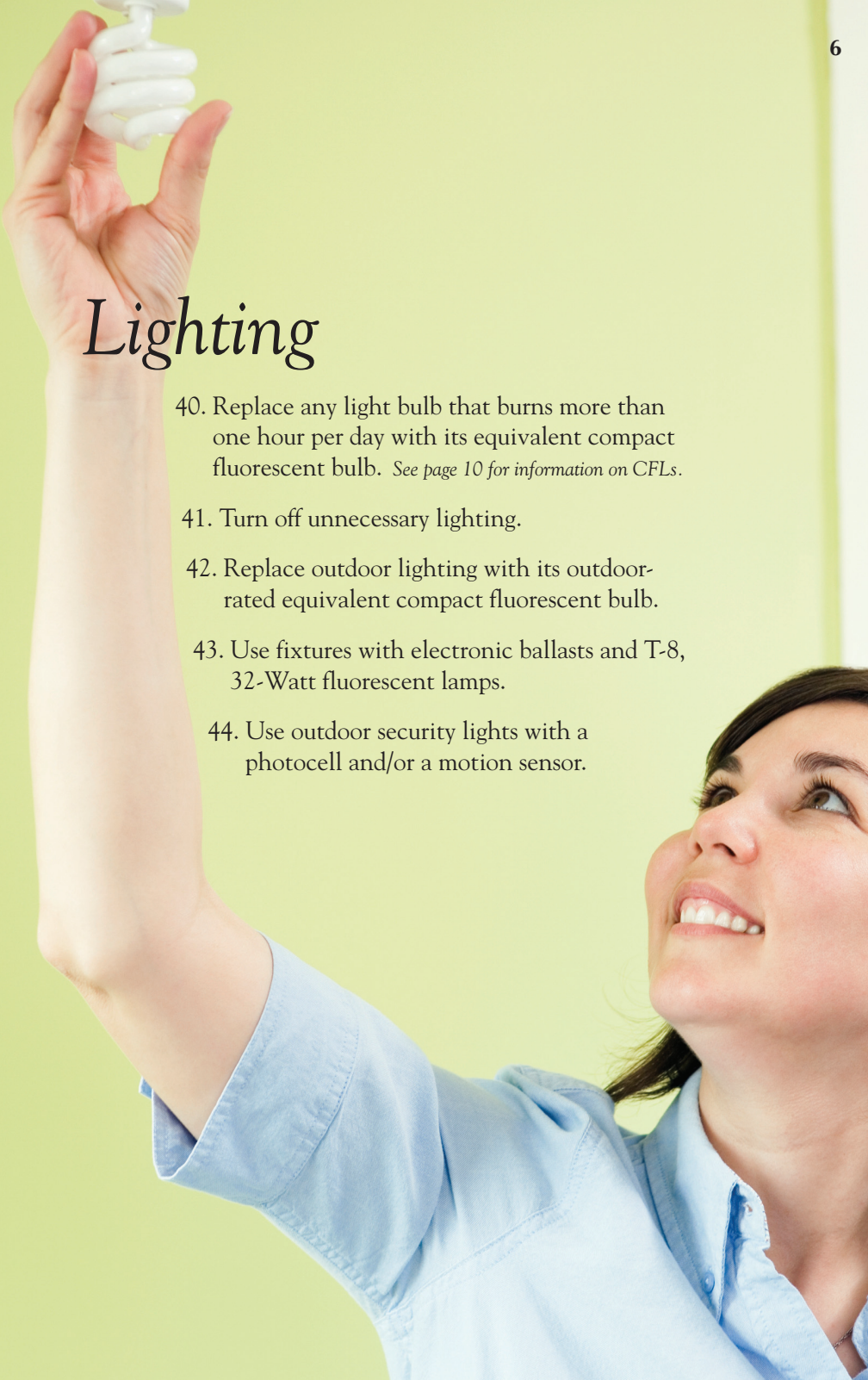
Laundry

12. Wash clothes in cold water. Use hot water only for very dirty loads.
13. Do only full laundry loads.
14. If you must do smaller loads, adjust the water level in the washing machine to match the load size, especially when using hot water.
15. Always use cold-water rinse.
16. Use bath towels at least twice before washing them.
17. Clean your dryer's lint trap before each load.
18. Make sure that the outdoor dryer exhaust door closes when dryer is off.
19. Verify dryer vent hose is tightly connected to inside wall fitting.
20. Check that the dryer vent hose is tightly connected to dryer.
21. Make sure dryer vent hose is not kinked or clogged.
22. Minimize clothes drying time; use moisture sensor on dryer if available.
23. Dry consecutive loads to harvest heat remaining in dryer from last load.
24. Consider using a "solar-powered" clothes dryer, an old-fashioned clothes line.



Kitchen

25. Use your refrigerator's anti-sweat feature only if necessary.
26. Switch your refrigerator's power-saver to "ON," if available.
27. Clean refrigerator coils annually.
28. Set the refrigerator temperature to 34°– 37°F and freezer temperature to 0°– 5°F.
29. Ensure gaskets around door seal tightly.
30. Unplug unused refrigerators or freezers.
31. Use microwave for cooking when possible.
32. When cooking on the range, use pot lids to help food cook faster.
33. If you are heating water, use hot tap water instead of cold.
34. Remember to use the kitchen exhaust fan when cooking and turn it off after cooking.
35. Use a crockpot instead of simmering on the stove.
36. Rinse dirty dishes with cold water before putting them into the dishwasher.
37. Use cold water for garbage disposal.
38. Only run dishwasher when fully loaded.
39. Use air-dry cycle instead of heat-dry cycle to dry dishes.



Lighting

- 40. Replace any light bulb that burns more than one hour per day with its equivalent compact fluorescent bulb. *See page 10 for information on CFLs.*
- 41. Turn off unnecessary lighting.
- 42. Replace outdoor lighting with its outdoor-rated equivalent compact fluorescent bulb.
- 43. Use fixtures with electronic ballasts and T-8, 32-Watt fluorescent lamps.
- 44. Use outdoor security lights with a photocell and/or a motion sensor.

Miscellaneous

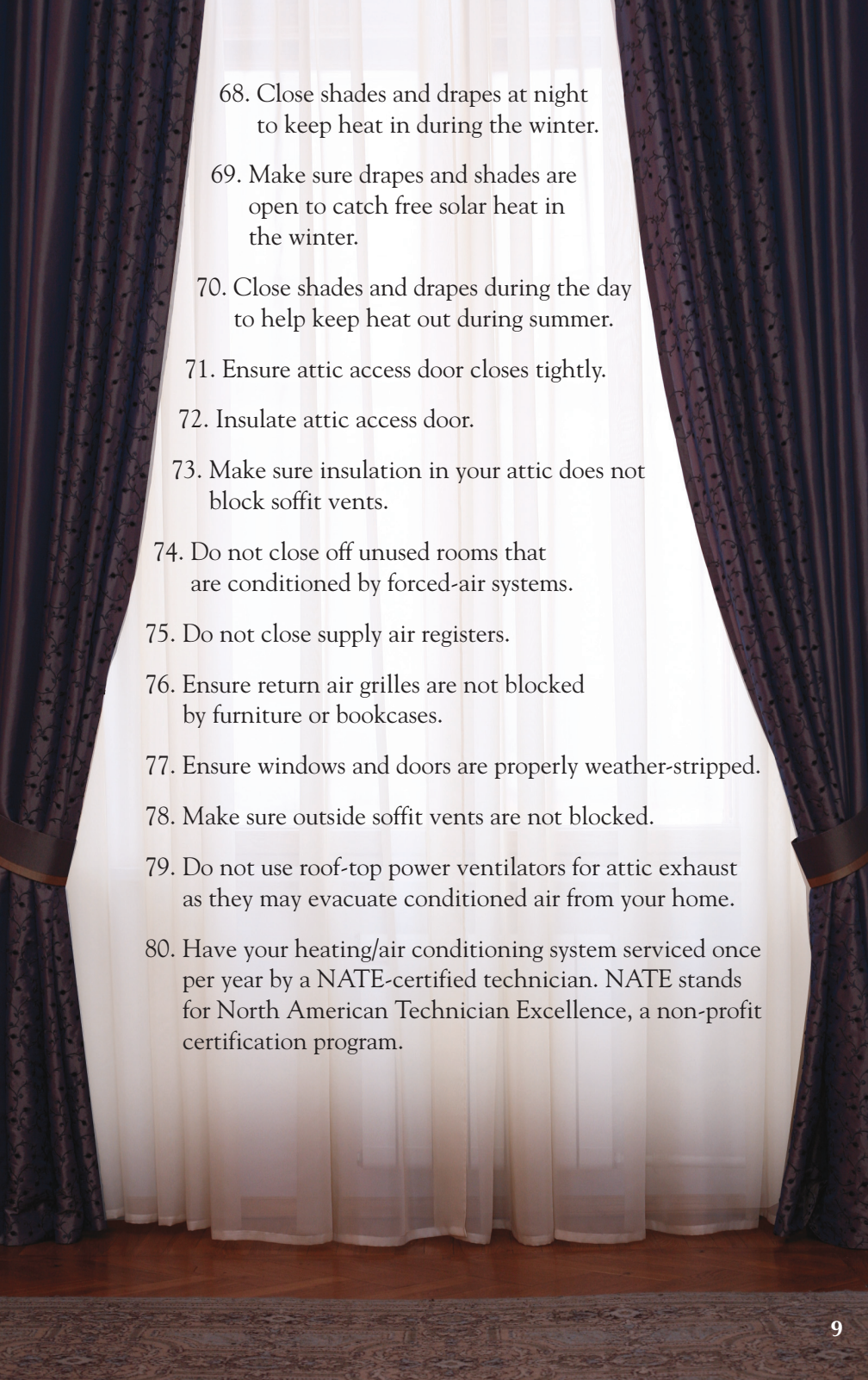
45. Turn computers and monitors off when not in use.
46. Make sure electric blankets are turned off in the morning.
47. Turn waterbed heater off when not needed.
48. Turn large-screen TVs off completely when not in use.
49. Turn off stereos and radios when not in use.
50. Remember to turn off hair curling irons and hot rollers.
51. Turn off coffee makers when not in use.
52. Turn off pool pump and/or heater when not needed.
53. Verify livestock water tank heaters are off when not needed.
54. Make sure heat tape is off when not needed.
55. Unplug battery chargers when not needed.
56. Ensure all new appliances you purchase are Energy Star-approved.





Heating & Air Conditioning

57. Set thermostats to 78°F in summer, 68°F in winter.
58. Run ceiling paddle fans on medium, blowing down in summer.
59. Run ceiling paddle fans on low, blowing up in winter.
60. Change heating/air conditioning filters monthly.
61. When installing new air filters, make sure they are facing in the correct direction. (Look for arrow on side of filter.)
62. When heating or cooling, keep windows closed.
63. Insulate electric wall plugs and wall switches with foam pads.
64. Caulk along baseboards with a clear sealant.
65. Close fireplace dampers when not burning a fire.
66. Caulk around plumbing penetrations that come through walls beneath bathroom and kitchen sinks.
67. Caulk electrical wire penetrations at the top of the interior walls.

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68. Close shades and drapes at night to keep heat in during the winter.
 69. Make sure drapes and shades are open to catch free solar heat in the winter.
 70. Close shades and drapes during the day to help keep heat out during summer.
 71. Ensure attic access door closes tightly.
 72. Insulate attic access door.
 73. Make sure insulation in your attic does not block soffit vents.
 74. Do not close off unused rooms that are conditioned by forced-air systems.
 75. Do not close supply air registers.
 76. Ensure return air grilles are not blocked by furniture or bookcases.
 77. Ensure windows and doors are properly weather-stripped.
 78. Make sure outside soffit vents are not blocked.
 79. Do not use roof-top power ventilators for attic exhaust as they may evacuate conditioned air from your home.
 80. Have your heating/air conditioning system serviced once per year by a NATE-certified technician. NATE stands for North American Technician Excellence, a non-profit certification program.

81. Monitor your home's relative humidity in the summer. If it consistently stays in the 60-percent range or higher, ask your heating/air conditioning technician about lowering your central air conditioning unit's indoor fan speed.
82. Ensure window A/C (air conditioning) units are weather-stripped.
83. Ensure windows with window-mounted A/C units have weather-stripping between the middle of the top and bottom pane.
84. Remove and clean window A/C filter monthly.
85. Keep "fresh-air" vents on window A/C units closed.
86. Minimize use of electric space heaters.
87. When using the fireplace, reduce heat loss by opening damper in the bottom of the firebox (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly.
88. Caulk around basement windows.
89. In a basement, seal the sill and band joist with durable caulking or foam sealant.
90. Ensure floor registers are not blocked with rugs, drapes or furniture.
91. Ensure your outdoor heat pump / air conditioning unit is kept clean and free of debris.
92. Outside your home, caulk around all penetrations including telephone, electrical, cable, gas, water spigots, dryer vents, etc.
93. Caulk around storm windows.
94. Use heavy-duty, clear sheets of plastic on the inside of windows to reduce the amount of cold air entering your home.

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95. Verify your supply air duct “boots” (behind supply air registers) are caulked to your ceiling or wall sheetrock or flooring.
 96. If in unconditioned space, verify your ducts are tightly connected to your heating/air conditioning equipment.
 97. Verify all outdoor doors (including storm doors) close and seal tightly.
 98. In two-story homes serviced by one heating/air conditioning system, a paddle fan at the top of the stairs can push down hot, second-floor air.
 99. Install 15-minute, spring-wound timers on bathroom ventilator fans.
 100. Always run your heating/air conditioning system fan on “AUTO.” Running it on “ON” uses more electricity and can decrease your air conditioner’s ability to remove moisture.
 101. Keep your garage door down.
A warmer garage in the winter and cooler garage in the summer will save energy.



Your electric cooperative is committed to helping you use electricity as efficiently as possible. Make the commitment with us and you'll save energy, save money and help protect the planet.

What is a CFL?

A compact fluorescent light is a smaller version of a standard fluorescent tube. Most people recognize a CFL by its twisted, corkscrew appearance, but some models look just like a standard, incandescent bulb.

CFLs provide the same amount of light as incandescents and can be used almost anywhere. There are special CFLs that work with three-way fixtures and dimmer switches.

Use CFLs to save energy

CFLs use 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. A 20-watt CFL gives off as much light as a 75-watt incandescent bulb while using only 20 watts of electricity.

If every household in South Carolina switched just one incandescent bulb to a CFL, our state would save up to 83 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year. That's enough energy to light all of the homes in Columbia for a year!

Use CFLs to save money

Lighting can account for about 20% of the average home's electric bill.

Using a 75-watt equivalent CFL will save an average of \$44 in energy costs over its lifetime.

Use CFLs to save the planet

Over its lifetime, a 75-watt equivalent CFL will prevent nearly 600 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions. For every CFL used, as many as eight fewer incandescent light bulbs end up in landfills.

What to look for in a CFL

Type Look for the ENERGY STAR label on the CFL box to ensure quality. Read the packaging to be sure that the type you choose works for the light fixture you have in mind. Use CFLs in places where lights are on the most.

Lumens A CFL puts out the same amount of light as an incandescent bulb but uses fewer watts, so to get the desired amount of light, compare lumens (light output or brightness) rather than watts. Lumens are listed on bulb packaging.

Color Choose the color that works best for you. For example, while most CFLs are created with warm colors for most rooms in your home (2,700-3,000 degrees Kelvin, labeled “warm light”), you might choose a cooler color (3,500-6,500 degrees Kelvin, labeled “cool white” or “daylight”) for reading lamps.



Where to use ENERGY STAR qualified bulbs

Which Rooms?

Where lights are on the most:

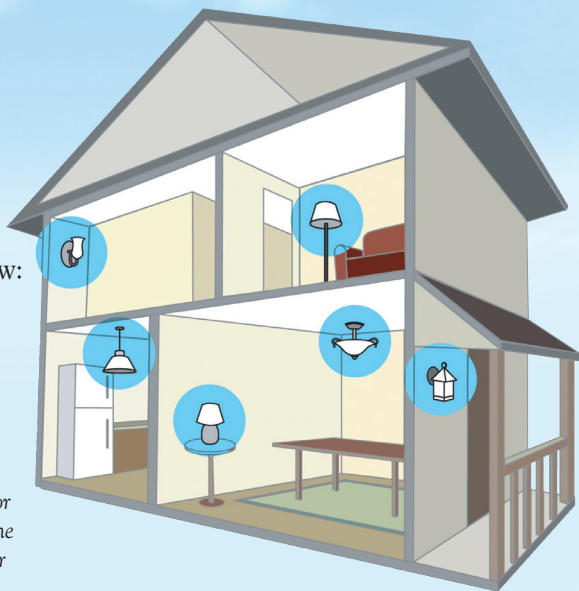
- Family and living room
- Kitchen
- Dining room
- Porch

Which Fixtures?

Open fixtures that allow air flow:

- Table lamps
- Floor lamps
- Wall sconces
- Pendants
- Open ceiling fixtures

If a light fixture is connected to a dimmer or three-way switch, do not place a CFL in the fixture unless it is labeled as appropriate for dimmer or three-way switches.



How do I dispose of CFLs?

Most co-ops in South Carolina will accept used, unbroken CFLs for recycling. All Home Depot stores also accept CFLs for recycling. CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, about the amount that would fit on the tip of a ballpoint pen. Broken CFLs should be handled with care. A broken CFL can be safely disposed of by wrapping the bulb in a sealed plastic bag and discarding it with your trash. For proper clean-up procedures, visit www.DoTheLightSwitch.com.

Take the pledge...

Join a growing number of South Carolina electric cooperative members who are taking a pledge to save energy, save money and save the planet.

Take the ENERGY STAR **Change a Light, Change the World** pledge at



When you do, you'll get energy-saving tips and coupons to save money on your next CFL purchase.

**Help us change
the world,
one ENERGY STAR
light at a time.**



Save energy. Save money. Save the planet.

*Find out how the little changes
add up to big savings at*

TogetherWeSave.com



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P.O. Box 2500 • 701 Blythewood Road
Blythewood, SC 29016
1-800-628-0336
www.fairfield.coop