Lighting has changed drastically in terms of efficiency. Do you know what a Lumen is? What makes one bulb different from another? Use this guide and the next time an old, incandescent bulb burns out in your home, reach for a long-lasting LED or CFL.
LIGHTING OPTIONS

YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR
The cheapest bulbs may not live up to their life expectancy projections. Your best bet? Look for the ENERGY STAR logo.

UNDERSTANDING LUMENS
There are four major types of lights used in homes: incandescent, halogen, CFL and LED. All four can give off the same brightness (Lumen), but each of them uses different amounts of electricity. And the more watts you use, the more it costs to light your home.

To achieve 1,600 lumens, the equivalent can be acquired with a 100-watt incandescent, a 72-watt halogen, a 23-watt CFL or an 18-watt LED. But remember, the 100-watt bulb will cost much more to operate than the 18-watt bulb.

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT (CFL)
• Last 6,000+ hours
• Uses 75 percent less energy than an incandescent
• Contains trace amounts of mercury, so handle carefully and dispose of properly

LIGHT-EMITTING DIODES (LED)
• Last 25,000+ hours
• About 85% to 90% more efficient than a traditional incandescent
• Contains no mercury and are more durable than CFLs
• Release 90% less heat than incandescent bulbs
• Function well in cold temperatures