

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs Are Safe

The **Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)** is receiving increasing reports from concerned consumers regarding the end-of-life failure of Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs).

Life Span of CFLs

The signs of end-of-life failure for CFLs may vary depending on the manufacturer of the CFL, and on the type and location of the lighting fixture being used. When CFLs fail they may emit smoke, an odour, or a popping sound; and the plastic base may become discoloured, charred or deformed. The Electrical Safety Authority states in the Product Safety Alert dated March 22, 2007 (Alert Notice 07-03-AL) **“Certification agencies have advised that this failure does not present a shock or fire hazard for approved products.”**

Sign of Failure of CFLs

As it may be difficult for consumers to distinguish between what is normal and what may be a hazardous condition, the ESA encourages consumers to replace CFLs at the first sign of failure or aging. Early warning signs to look for include:

- o Flickering
- o A bright orange or red glow
- o Popping sounds
- o An odour
- o Browning of the ballast enclosure (base).

CFLs should not be used:

- o In totally enclosed recessed fixtures
- o With dimmer switches
- o In touch lamps with photocells
- o With electronic timers
- o Where exposed to weather
- o Where exposed to water

Recalls on CFLs

In 2005, the ESA issued a recall for Globe mini-spiral 13-watt lamps that were made between January 2002 and April 2003 after concluding that the parts could fail and melt a hole in the enclosure—these bulbs were not certified by the Underwriters Laboratory of Canada (ULC).

Please Note: The CFLs that were distributed by Project Porchlight in Yukon were approved and meet the standards set by Underwriters Laboratory of Canada (ULC).