

ECOWISE

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IN THIS ISSUE

» New Federal Light Bulb Law:
Bright Lights, Less Energy

» GoGreen Conferences

» A Little Moisture can
Cause Big Mold Problems

» Resident's Corner | Preventing
Household Poisoning for
Children

» Contact Us

GoGreen Conferences

Austin, TX – April, 4 2012

Seattle, WA – April, 25 2012

New York, NY – September 2012

Portland, OR – To be announced

Phoenix, AZ – To be announced

More information:

www.gogreenconference.net

New Federal Light Bulb Law: Bright Lights, Less Energy

As of January 1, 2012, 100-watt incandescent bulbs can still be sold and used in the U.S. but will no longer be manufactured in the United States. This action is the first phase of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007, which enforces policies that help the United States become energy independent and make better use of its energy resources. The Energy Act does not ban incandescent bulbs. However, bulbs must now meet the new energy standards. Also, certain types of bulbs, such as specialty bulbs, globes and three-way bulbs are exempt from the law.

EISA initially requires common household light bulbs, which are usually between 40 and 100 watts, to use 27% less energy by 2014. In 2020, the law will require most light bulbs to be 60-70% more efficient than today's incandescent bulbs. At present, only 10% of the electricity powering an incandescent bulb is used for light the rest is wasted through heat loss.

This standard will be phased in over the next three years, each starting on January first of that year. While the new standards will take effect on their respective effective date, Federal enforcement of the new standard will not begin until October 2012. PHAs and residents will need to find bulbs that use fewer watts for the needed lumen output. Lumens are a measurement of how bright the bulb is and watts are a measurement of the amount of energy the bulb use; more lumens indicate greater brightness. Below is a table with the equivalent lumens to watts and effective dates.

Brightness	Standard Incandescent Light Usage	New Standard Requirement Usage	Effective Date
1600 lumens	100 watt	72 watts	January 1, 2012
1100 lumens	75 watt	53 watts	January 1, 2013
800 lumens	60 watt	43 watts	January 1, 2014
450 lumens	40 watt	29 watts	January 1, 2014

Major retailers offer a wide range of new energy-efficient light bulbs that meet EISA standards. These include new incandescent bulbs, compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) and light emitting diodes (LEDs). Finally, the new light bulb standards should lead to long-term cost savings; the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that American households collectively could save nearly \$6 billion in 2015 alone. For more information on and finding energy-efficient light bulbs go to: <http://1.usa.gov/bikOX4>.



A Little Moisture can Cause Big Mold Problems

Small leaks in roofs and around windows can not only let in cold winter air into housing units but also moisture. This environment can lead to the perfect opportunity for mold to grow. It is believed that mold may cause a number of health related concerns. In 2004, the Institute of Medicine (IOM), an arm of the National Academy of Sciences, found that exposure to mold can cause upper respiratory tract symptoms such as coughing and wheezing in otherwise healthy people. The IOM also found a possible link between indoor mold exposure and respiratory illness in otherwise healthy children. Additional IOM information can be viewed at http://www.cdc.gov/mold/dampness_facts.htm.

Public Housing agencies (PHAs) must deal with the problem of mold on a regular basis through prevention, identification and a strong response.

Housing agencies can prevent mold infiltration by fixing water problems such as roof leaks, wet basements and leaking pipes, faucets and toilets. Proper ventilation and air movement is also very important in mold prevention. PHAs should install and maintain ventilation exhaust fans in bathrooms and kitchens, which can be consistently damp areas.

Identification of mold problem areas should be incorporated into the PHA's annual unit and preventative maintenance inspections. Damp and musty smells are a possible indicator of mold and should be addressed immediately by searching behind and underneath carpeting, furniture or appliances. Maintenance staff should look for water stains or colored, fuzzy growth on or around ceilings, walls, floors, window sills and pipes. Floods and large spills should be cleaned and dried within one day of the occurrence and any leaks should be fixed as soon as possible. In high humidity areas, dehumidifiers should be installed to maintain a humidity level below 50%.

When responding to a mold issue it is best to act quickly. Mold can be cleaned off of non-porous surfaces using a weak solution of bleach and water. Materials such as carpet, upholstered furniture, drywall and floorboards that are growing mold cannot be cleaned and should be thrown away. Larger areas of mold contamination should be cleaned by mold remediation professionals.

Preventative maintenance and quick response to moisture issues and concerns will help lower possible future cleaning and repair costs for the PHA and provide the tenant with a healthy living environment.

For more information on mold and moisture issues go to: <http://www.epa.gov/mold> and <http://www.cdc.gov/mold>.

Resident's Corner | Preventing Household Poisoning for Children

Nationwide poison control centers receive a call about possible poisoning every 13 seconds. Chemicals in and around the home can injure people or pets and cause long-term injury.

Children are particularly at risk for household poisoning. The natural curiosity of children can lead to accidental poisoning. Below are descriptions of some of the most dangerous poisons for children.

- **Medicines:** The right amount of medicine is ok for the right person but can be very dangerous to children if they take the wrong or too much medicine.
- **Cleaning Products:** Many cleaning products can cause burns just as bad as fires. Even cleaning products that may not burn skin can cause considerable damage if swallowed. When purchasing these cleaning products, only small quantities should be bought and the excess should be discarded.
- **Nail Polish and Nail Polish Remover:** Some ingredients in nail polish and nail polish remover can cause cyanide poisoning when swallowed by children.
- **Hydrocarbons:** This broad category includes gasoline, kerosene, lamp oil, motor oil, lighter fluid, furniture polish and paint thinner. Breathing these liquids into the lungs can cause inflammation making it difficult to breathe. If swallowed, the liquids can cause diarrhea, nausea or vomiting. Hydrocarbon poisoning is a leading cause of poisoning death in children.
- **Pesticides:** Many pesticides can be absorbed through the skin and their fumes can also be inhaled. They can affect the nervous system and can make breathing difficult.
- **Alcohol:** When children swallow alcohol they can have seizures, go into a coma or even die. Beer, wine and liquor are not the only sources of alcohol. Mouthwash, facial cleaners and hair tonics can have as much alcohol in them as alcoholic beverages.

Tips for poison prevention:

- Keep medicines and cleaning products locked up and out of reach of children.
- Always store products in their original containers. Should a child or adult be poisoned an unmarked container will put the individual at further risk because the poison can't be clearly identified.
- Ensure that the product has child-resistant packaging, and nothing is child-proof.
- Teach children to ask first before eating or drinking anything; many poisons can look like food or drinks.

If a poisoning happens and the victim has collapsed or is not breathing, call 911. If the victim is awake and alert, call a Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 and have information on the victim's age and weight, the container or bottle of the poison. Also try to note, the time the poisoning occurred and the address where the poisoning occurred. Then stay on the phone and follow the instructions from the emergency operator or poison control center.

For more information on poisoning prevention go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyHomes/ByTopic/Poisoning.html>.

Contact Us:

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