



## Reading the Label

It may seem self-explanatory, but reading the back of lighting packages should provide you with all the information you need to choose the right light for your needs. You should find three key descriptive measurements: energy used (watts), light output (lumens), and color of light (kelvin). If not, ask a salesperson or look it up online.

**Watts (W)** - measures how much energy is used by a light bulb. This is how you figure out any energy savings. For example, a 9W bulb uses a third less energy than a 27W bulb. Watts are **not** how bright the bulb is (lumens) or the color of the light (Kelvin).

**Lumens** - measures how much light is being emitted by a bulb. The more lumens, the brighter the light, i.e. a bulb with 200 lumens is twice as bright as one that gives off 100 lumens. Compact fluorescents are far brighter per watt than incandescents. For example, a 10-watt CFL produces the same amount of light, 450 lumens, as a 40-watt incandescent.

**Kelvin (K)** - represents the color of the light. Want bright, white light or a warm yellow glow? This is what you need to look at. The higher the number, the cooler (bluer or whiter) the light is. The lower the number, the warmer (yellow) the light is. Common Kelvin ratings are 2700K (warm), 3000 – 3500K (bright) and 5500K (daylight).



**Doing the Math: The Average Life** of a light is rated in hours. Typical CFL lifespan is 8,000 to 10,000 hours whereas a typical incandescent is 1,000 hours. That can add up to some serious cost savings over time. For example, the chart below shows savings based on a 10 cents a kWh charge (about what Anchorage residents pay).

Bulb Wattage	No. of Sockets	Rated Life (hrs)	Annual Operation Cost	Annual Savings	Cost at 10,000 hrs	Lifetime Savings
Incandescent 60W	1	1,000	\$6.57	\$5.15	\$60.00	\$47.00
CFL 13W		10,000	\$1.42		\$13.00	

### Good deals on CFLs through the Smart Power energy efficiency program

- Anchorage Municipal Light and Power, Matanuska Electric Association, and Chugach Electric Association have partnered together to offer discounts on Satco CFL 4-packs, saving you \$3.00 a pack. Brown's Electric is already selling 4-packs of Satco CFLs at the reduced price. In coming weeks, Spenard Builders Supply, Wal-Mart, Fred Meyer and Target as well as Brown's will have this special pricing in all their Anchorage area and Valley locations. For more information, please visit [http://www.chugachelectric.com/smart/sp\\_home.html](http://www.chugachelectric.com/smart/sp_home.html)