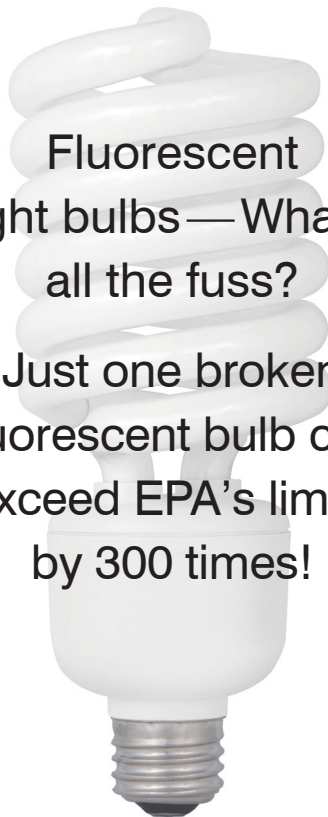


# Protecting Our Parishes, Missions, and Schools

## House kills bill to keep compact fluorescent

Fluorescent light bulbs — What's all the fuss?

Just one broken fluorescent bulb can exceed EPA's limits by 300 times!



WASHINGTON — the House of Representatives on Friday defeated an amendment that would have prohibited the federal government from installing or buying compact fluorescent light bulbs for congressional offices, (which are imported from China).

The amendment's author, Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson, R-Pa., had argued that the energy efficient and squiggly shaped bulbs known as CFLs are not made in the U.S. and are dangerous because they contain mercury. The House rejected his amendment to the House appropriations bill that funds congressional operations 283-130.

He said that it would be better for the government to support U.S.-made products by not buying CFL bulbs that are made overseas. If his amendment had passed, he had hoped that the move would promote U.S. light bulb manufacturers, including two Sylvania plants in his congressional district that produce energy-efficient halogen bulbs.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the EPA studies show that these compact screwy looking fluorescent lights widely used in our homes and places of worship contains mercury that if broken can exceed the EPA's exposure limits up to 300 times!

The dangers of changing fluorescent bulbs where the bulb can become fused to the fixture due to heat and rust excess force used to untwist it from the fixture can break the bulb leading to the release of dangerous poisonous gas. We strongly recommend the use of a N95 industrial mask to filter out the poisonous vapors. Wearing sturdy gloves and eye protection is also recommended in case the glass breaks.

There has been a great improvement in the lighting industry especially with LED lighting. LED lighting is much more energy efficient than fluorescent and incandescent lights and much safer to use because they do not contain any poisons and burn cool.

What type of light bulb you use is a personal choice, but considering the above, you should consider utilizing LED lighting when and where possible. And most of all, know the hazardous associated with compact fluorescent light bulbs.

## Remember, all eyes on SAFETY.



The information contained in this document was obtained from sources that to the best of the writer's knowledge are authentic and reliable. Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. makes no guarantee of results, and assumes no liability in connection with either the information herein contained, or the safety suggestions herein made. Moreover, it cannot be assumed that every acceptable safety procedure is contained herein, or that abnormal or unusual circumstances may not warrant or require further or additional procedures.



Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc.

Q:\2012\BSD\Boca Raton\Roman Catholic Bulletins\Fluorescent Light Bulbs.indd  
© 2012 Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.