

## ARE YOU DEDICATED TO SAVING ENERGY WITH YOUR LIGHT FITTINGS?

What will the early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century be noted for? - the hot topics are all about recession, saving energy and reducing CO2 emissions. From wind farms to cars it seems that everyone is looking at efficient ways of saving money and the environment. The western world, especially, is "hooked" on technology and all that goes with it but there has come a time when we have to reconsider how we use these products to their best advantage without having a detrimental effect on the world around us.

The majority of us take it for granted that when we walk into a dark room we can flick a switch and there is light – but how much light do we actually need and do we all consider that, by changing to low energy, we can make substantial savings both on our bills and the effect on the world around us?

Low energy bulbs have had a bad press in the past but things have changed. It is now possible to have efficient, attractive lighting that gives us all we require and more. With the development of small, self-ballasted, compact fluorescent lamps a Cambridgeshire based company, tp24, has created a premium range of small attractive light fittings suitable for all domestic situations. Managing Director, Shaun Davis, is passionate about making dedicated low energy the "norm". He says, "By developing and working with these smaller lamps tp24 has been able to produce an impressive collection of up-to-the-minute fittings which have customer's choosing them for their looks and it is a bonus that they are low energy too!"

There is a lot in the press about LED fittings but to date they are very expensive and do not have enough light output to illuminate the average room. They are great for accent lighting and as design features but do not have the capacity to provide the standard background lighting required in the average interior.

By installing low energy lighting energy use can be cut by up to 80%. Good quality lamps last up to 8,000 hours and typically give 3 to 5 years in normal use.

Dedicated fittings ensure that only low energy lamps can be used for replacement bulbs. The current building regulations stipulate that 30% of all lighting within a new dwelling has to be dedicated low energy. As Davis commented, "Previously the inspectors were signing off properties and then, when the homeowners moved in, they were taking out the low energy pendants and fittings as there was nothing on the market that combined a good efficient light with aesthetically pleasing design.

Now, however they have a choice of stylish contemporary fittings and all at an affordable price.”

We all need to take responsibility for the products that we use and the associated consequences of them. Anyone purchasing new light fittings or considering changing their existing ones are now able to do the sensible thing and select dedicated low energy which will ensure that the benefit of savings both on energy and running costs will continue for years to come.

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Editors' Notes

More about tp24

tp24 are world leaders in the design, development and manufacture of low energy lighting. Their core business is providing quality lighting packages to new homebuyers through builders. tp24 provide a complete service for the builder making lighting the easiest optional extra to sell.

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More photographs available on request

