



Festival of Eco-Lights

Know how you can brighten up your home in an eco-friendly manner.

BY SIDDHANTA CHOPRA

To imagine festivities without bright lights at this time of year is next to impossible. After all, what is Diwali without garlands of vibrant fairy lights dangling from every corner? But going all out doesn't mean dealing a bad hand to nature, and drowning under the weight of hefty electricity bills a month later. This year, go green by swapping traditional lamps for long-lasting and energy-efficient LEDs and CFLs. So gear up for the festival of lights with these eco-friendly (and moolah saving) tips from interior designer Sapna Aggarwal, partner, Ansa Interiors.

1 USE DIMMERS AND SENSORS

These switches are not just for effect. "With dimmers you can control light, not only to enhance the mood, but also to reduce your electricity consumption by upto 35%," says Aggarwal. And when you use your LED

lamps on a dim lighting mode, they last even longer. Lights with motion sensors, on the other hand, are a boon for the forgetful. The sensors detect movement, and automatically switch on the lights when you enter a room and switch them off when you leave.

They are ideal for rooms that are not used often, as with these you won't have to worry about the lights being left on in the storeroom for hours.

2 GET A HOME AUTOMATION SYSTEM

So you've left for a party, only to remember halfway en route that you forgot to switch off the AC. What do you do? Simple—control your home from your smartphone. With a home automation system you can switch on or off any electrical device even if you're miles away with just a simple app on your mobile. So you save energy, at your own convenience.

3 DIWALI SAVINGS

If you're still using hefty bulbs from the yesteryears for decoration, you've been living under a rock. Not only do they consume more energy, but they are also fragile, and let's face it—not very pretty. Opt for LED rope lights that are cheap, sleek, and can just about fit anywhere. In a variety of styles, you can up the ante by getting ones that change colours. Running out of power sockets for innumerable decorations? Buy battery-powered lights that are rechargeable and pocket-friendly as well, suggests Aggarwal. ■

RIGHT LIGHTING

Light up your home with these products that are energy-efficient as well as high on style.

1. GLACIALIGHT DIMMABLE LED DOWNLIGHT consumes only 13 watts of energy, and lasts upto 30,000 hours. It's great for entrances and lobbies. ₹3,000 approx. (plus taxes).

2. PHILIPS LIVINGCOLOURS LAMP is a party must-have. It can emit up to 16 million different colours (which can be controlled with a remote), and has a shelf life of eight years. ₹11,999.

3. KAPOOR LIGHT LIFE LAMP uses an LED light bulb, and gives you full dimmer functionality. It's brighter than regular lamps, has a long life, and is ideal for all modern homes. ₹3,800.



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