

FLUORESCENT LAMPS



Thurston County Business Pollution Prevention Program

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WHY FLUORESCENT LAMPS...

Certain burned out or unwanted light bulbs contain mercury. Mercury is a highly toxic element that does not break down and classifies as a dangerous waste. Improperly disposed mercury-containing devices can lead to the contamination of air, soil, and water, causing significant health and environmental concerns. This means that mercury-containing lamps cannot be disposed of in the garbage.

Fluorescent lamps are still a good environmental and economic choice because they are energy efficient – they often use one-quarter the energy of incandescent lamps and last up to ten times longer. Reducing energy consumption cuts down on power plant emissions of mercury and other emissions that contribute to global climate change, acid rain, and smog.

MERCURY- CONTAINING LAMP TYPES

- ◆ Fluorescent lamps, tubes, and globes: used in businesses, schools, offices, and stores
- ◆ High-intensity discharge (HID) lamps: including mercury vapor, metal halide, and high-pressure sodium - used for streetlights, floodlights, photography, and industrial lighting
- ◆ Compact fluorescent lamps: used in homes and offices
- ◆ Neon and argon lamps: used as novelties, in lounges, and retail stores
- ◆ Ultraviolet Lamps: used for tanning and disinfection.

DISPOSAL OPTIONS FOR MERCURY CONTAINING LAMPS

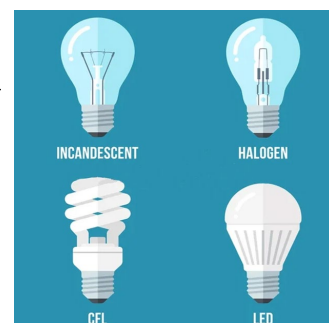
A variety of disposal or recycling options are available for both businesses and residents in Thurston County:

1. Recycle for free (both residents and small businesses) through the LightRecycle Washington program. This product stewardship program accepts up to 10 lights per day per customer at sponsored locations throughout the County. Visit their website to find a collection site near you (www.lightrecyclewa.org).
2. Dispose of through a permitted vendor or disposal facility, including the Thurston County HazoHouse facility (free for residents, small fee for businesses) located at 2404 Hogum Bay Road NE in Lacey, Washington.
3. Confirm that the lamp is non-hazardous in Washington State and dispose of as solid waste (this determination must be done by the manufacturer or through a lab analysis).

Whether recycling or disposing of your lamps, businesses are required to handle them in specific ways (unless they designate as non-hazardous in the state of Washington). Management options are to manage these lamps as either universal waste or dangerous waste.

BROKEN LAMP CLEAN UP PROCEDURE

1. Avoid breathing vapors or touching broken materials, do not vacuum or sweep until after cleanup has been completed
2. If possible, vent area for 15 minutes
3. Use stiff paper or cardboard to pick up large pieces of broken glass and powder
4. Use heavy duty tape to pick up the small pieces of glass and remaining powder
5. Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or wet wipe
6. Place all materials in a sealed container (jar or Ziploc bag)
7. Wash your hands
8. Dispose of at a **LightRecycle** sponsored location, **HazoHouse**, or through another permitted vendor



LAMP BALLASTS

Fluorescent light ballasts manufactured before 1979 may contain PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, which are toxic and remain in the environment for long periods of time. When replacing old ballasts, look for the label "no PCBs." If the ballast does not have that language, they must be handled as a dangerous waste and disposed of through a vendor. If they have a "no PCB's" label, then the ballast can be disposed of as solid waste.

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