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Recycling and Disposal of CFLs and Other Bulbs that Contain Mercury

EPA recommends that consumers take advantage of available local options for recycling CFLs, fluorescent bulbs and other bulbs that contain mercury, and all other household hazardous wastes, rather than disposing of them in regular household trash.

On this page:

- Recycling CFLs
- Where to Recycle CFLs

Benefits of Recycling CFLs

- Recycling prevents the release of mercury into the
 environment. CFLs and other fluorescent bulbs often break
 when thrown into a dumpster, trash can or compactor, or when
 they end up in a landfill or incinerator. Learn more about CFLs
 and mercury https://epa.gov/mercury/what-are-connections-between-mercury-and-cfls. https://epa.gov/cfl/what-are-connections-between-mercury-and-cfls.
- Other materials in the bulbs get reused. Recycling CFLs and other fluorescent bulbs allows reuse of the glass, metals and other materials that make up fluorescent lights. Virtually all components of a fluorescent bulb can be recycled.
- Your area may prohibit disposal and/or require recycling.

 Some states and local jurisdictions have more stringent regulations than U.S. EPA does, and may require that you recycle CFLs and other mercury-containing light bulbs. Visit search.Earth911.com Exit http://search.earth911.com/> to contact your local waste collection agency, which can tell you if such a requirement exists in your state or locality. We are aware that the following states prohibit mercury-containing lamps from being discarded into landfills: The following links exit the site
 - O California EXIT https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/homehazwaste/info/
 - Maine EXIT
 - https://www.maine.gov/dep/waste/productstewardship/recyclemercurylamps.html
 - o Massachusetts EXIT
 - http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/toxics/sources/mercury-management-act-and-other-initiatives.html>
 - New Hampshire (PDF) EXIT
 - https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/co-19.pdf
 - O Vermont EXIT http://www.mercvt.org/dispose/lamps.htm
 - Washington EXIT
 - http://www.ecy.wa.gov/mercury/mercury_light_bulbs.html

Where to Recycle CFLs

The short answer is: visit search.Earth911.com EXIT http://search.earth911.com/ to find out.

Longer answer: Recycle at/using:

For Businesses

- View information about recycling and disposal requirements for CFLs and other "universal wastes" that apply to businesses https://epa.gov/hw/universal-waste#types>
- Learn how to establish a recycling program for mercurycontaining light bulbs https://epa.gov/h w/establishingrecyclingprogram-mercurycontaining-lightbulbs>

Other Types of Light Bulbs that Contain Mercury

Follow the recommendations on this page if you need to dispose of another type of mercury-containing light bulb, such as:

Fluorescent bulbs:

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- Waste collection agencies
- Local retailers
- Mail-back services

Contact your local waste collection agency

Visit search.Earth911.com EXIT http://search.earth911.com/ to find collection schedules in your area or drop-off locations if curbside collections are not available. Note that waste collection agencies:

- · provide services that are usually free, though some may charge a small fee.
- · sometimes collect household hazardous wastes only once or twice a year, so residents will have to hold on to their light bulbs until the collection takes place. Other collection agencies provide collection services throughout the year.
- · may also collect paints, pesticides, cleaning supplies or batteries.
- · usually accept waste only from residents, although some collection programs include small businesses as well.

Visit your local retailers

Many hardware supply stores and other retailers offer in-store recycling.

Visit search.Earth911.com EXIT http://search.earth911.com/ to find stores in your area or check the list below.

Make sure you check directly with the store before you go; not all stores in regional or nationwide chains may participate, and some stores may recycle only certain types of bulbs (for example, a store may recycle CFLs but not 4-foot fluorescent tubes).

- Aubuchon Hardware store locations EXIT http://www.hardwarestore.com/store-locations.aspx
- Bartell Drugs store locator EXIT https://www.bartelldrugs.com/store-
- Home Depot store locator EXIT http://www.homedepot.com/l/search/2583/full/
- Ikea store locator EXIT https://www.ikea.com/ext/us/local-stores/
- Lowe's store locator EXIT
- TrueValue store locator FXIT http://www.truevalue.com/store_locator.jsp
- Retail and other locations in certain counties and states:
 - O Maine EXIT http://www.maine.gov/dep/gis/datamaps/brwm_recycling/
 - Massachusetts EXIT
 - <http://maps.env.state.ma.us/dep/arcgis/js/templates/safemercurydisposal/</p>
 - O Minnesota EXIT https://mercurytechnologies-mn.com/lamp-drop-off-
 - O City of Napa and southern Napa County, California EXIT http://naparecycling.com/fluorescent-lamp-recycling/
 - San Francisco, California EXIT https://sfenvironment.org/light-bulb-
 - San Mateo County, California EXIT http://www.flowstobay.org/fluorescentlights
 - o Vermont EXIT https://dec.vermont.gov/waste- management/solid/product-stewardship/mercury/proper-disposal/lamps>

Find out about mail-back services

Some bulb manufacturers and other organizations sell pre-labeled recycling kits that allow you to mail used bulbs to recycling centers. The cost of each kit includes shipping charges to the recycling

- Linear, U-tube and circline fluorescent tubes
- · Bug zappers
- Tanning bulbs
- Black lights
- Germicidal bulbs
- Fluorescent induction hulbs
- High output bulbs, and
- Cold-cathode fluorescent bulbs.

High intensity discharge bulbs:

- Metal halide
- · Ceramic metal halide
- Induction
- Plasma
- High pressure sodium, and mercury vapor.

Mercury shortarc bulbs: and Neon bulbs.

Storing CFLs and Other **Fluorescent** S

Store fluorescent light bulbs in containers that prevent them from breaking, such as in their original boxes. replacement bulbs, or containers supplied by fluorescent light bulb recyclers. Recyclers generally require that the light bulbs arrive unbroken.

Related **Topics**

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center. You fill up a kit with old bulbs, seal it, and bring it to the post office or leave it for your postal carrier. Websites that provide more information about mail-back services.

- BakPak Mail-Back Recycling (NLR, Inc.) EXIT http://www.nlr-green.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/nlr-bakpak-instructions-compak-2018.pdf
- bulbcycle.com EXIT https://bulbcycle.com/>
- EasyPak from Lamprecycling.com (AirCycle) EXIT
- EcoLights EXIT http://www.ecolights.com/store.html
- Heritage Lifecycle Mailback Services
 EXIT http://store.heritage-enviro.com/c-1-light-bulbs.aspx
- Lampmaster EXIT
 https://lampmaster.com/
- RecyclePak from Veolia
 Environmental Services EXIT
- Simple Cycle (Lamp Environment Industries, Inc.) EXIT http://simple-cycle.com/
- Think Green From Home (Waste Management Inc.) EXIT https://www.thinkgreenfromhome.com/safe convenient.cfm>
- WasteSecure (Universal Recycling Technologies, LLC) EXIT
 https://www.wastesecure.com/

If your state or local environmental regulatory agency permits you to put used or broken CFLs in the regular household trash, seal the bulb in a plastic bag and put it into the outside trash for the next normal trash collection.

Please Note

- U.S. EPA does not endorse, recommend, certify, authorize or approve of these services.
- There may be other similar services of which we are not aware.
- We only provide these links as a convenience to our web visitors.

• CFL cleanup and

Don't Be Left in the Dark: Safely Clean Up and Recycle CFLs (pdf)

<https://epa.gov/si tes/default/files/d ocuments/cflbrochure.pdf> (869.77 KB) | en español <https://espanol.e pa.gov/espanol/no -se-quedeoscuras-conprecaucion-limpie-

y-recicle-cfls>

· Want to

recycle other
wastes like
paint,
batteries and
pesticides?:
Contact
search.Earth9
11.com to find
a recycling
center EXIT
http://search.eart

 Learn how to clean up and dispose of broken CFLs
 https://epa.gov/cf

Main CFLs
 page
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l/cleaning-broken-

Related Websites

- Association of Lighting and Mercury Recyclers EXIT http://www.almr.
- LampRecycle.
 org ExiT
 http://www.lamp
 recycle.org/>,
 developed by
 the Lamp
 Section of the
 National
 Electrical
 Manufacturers
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