

FLUORESCENT LAMPS

There are four basic types of lighting:

- incandescent,
- **fluorescent,**
- high-intensity discharge, and
- low-pressure sodium.



Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) are the most significant lighting advance developed for homes and work in recent years. They combine the efficiency of fluorescent lighting with the convenience and popularity of incandescent fixtures. Fluorescent lighting lasts about 10 times longer than incandescents.

However, fluorescent lamps, even the low mercury "energy saver" fluorescent lamps, contain mercury that may get into the environment. It's this presence of mercury that makes it important that lamps be recycled and managed to prevent mercury pollution.

Why recycle fluorescent lamps?

1

It is good for public health and the environment.

Fluorescent lamps release mercury when they are broken, burned in waste-to-energy plants, or buried in landfills. For example, in certain places, mercury contamination in water has increased over time in fish tissue making them harmful to eat.

2

Some states have full or partial solid waste disposal bans on fluorescents.

For example, under Florida law, all mercury-containing lamps, including those from households and other residential buildings, are prohibited by law from being disposed of at any Florida landfill or incinerator.

Mercury Household Sources

Mercury performs many useful functions in a home. However, as it is toxic and can impair our health if released into the environment, it is good to know where one might find it in a home. Here are some other household products that may or do contain mercury:

- thermometers (non-digital);
- thermostats (non-digital);
- iron and washer safety shutoff switches;
- sensors in video cameras;
 - lap-top shutoff;
- lawn mover fuel level indicator; and
 - some pilot light sensors.

Many states have initiated a recycling program for mercury-containing thermometers. Check your local solid waste recycling program for more information.

How do I recycle and/or manage my fluorescent lamps?

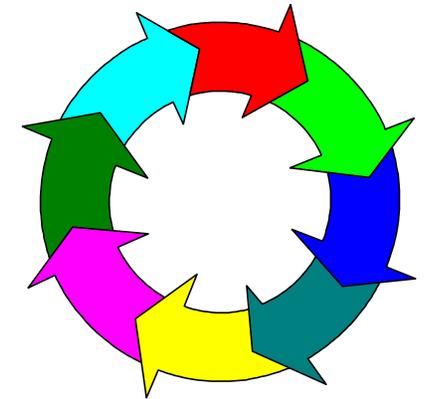
1st - ACCUMULATE AND STORE the burned-out lamps in a manner to **minimize breakage** (such as in the box of the new bulb that is replacing the burned out one) **UNTIL THE WASTE LAMPS CAN BE RECYCLED.**

2nd - TAKE THE LAMPS TO A LAMP RECYCLING CENTER (for example, a local Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site).



For further information contact:

Office of Environment and Energy
Environment, Energy, & Employee Safety Division
AEE-200
202-267-3553
<http://www.aee.faa.gov/aee-200>



***Fluorescent
Lamp
Recycling***