

Don't trash used fluorescent bulbs!

Fluorescent and many other light bulbs contain mercury—handle them safely!

By storing and recycling light bulbs properly, you can protect yourself, your employees, and your customers from exposure to mercury.

Mercury (Hg) is a toxic, dangerous waste that is hazardous to your health.



Know which bulbs contain Mercury—these bulbs may have the Hg symbol.

- Fluorescent tubes
- Compact fluorescent bulbs
- Neon lights
- High Intensity Discharge lamps (mercury vapor, metal halide, high-pressure sodium)

Don't crush mercury-containing light bulbs! Broken bulbs are dangerous (or hazardous) waste.

Regular incandescent light bulbs don't contain mercury—you can throw them in the garbage.

Manage Bulbs as Universal Waste regardless of generator status!

- Store used light bulbs in structurally sound containers—like cardboard boxes or fiber drums.
- Mark container with the date you start storing bulbs.
- Store used light bulbs for up to a year.
- Keep containers closed when not adding bulbs.
- Label containers with one of the following:
 Universal Waste–Lamps
 Waste Lamps
 Used Lamps



Recycle up to 50 unbroken fluorescent bulbs a year—Free!

Are you a Small Quantity Generator in Tacoma city limits?

You qualify! Take unbroken bulbs to the City of Tacoma's Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off.

Location	Facility Hours
Tacoma Landfill 3510 S Mullen Street Tacoma, WA 98409	8 a.m.-6 p.m. daily except holidays

Questions? Call (253) 591-5418 or email solidwaste@cityoftacoma.org.

Dispose of Fluorescent Bulbs through a hazardous waste contractor* if:

- You're not a Small Quantity Generator.
- You dispose of more than 50 mercury-containing bulbs per year.
- You have broken light bulbs.

Broken bulbs? Don't vacuum or sweep!

- Avoid breathing or touching broken materials.
- Open windows or doors to vent room for at least 15 minutes.
- Leave the area during this time.
- Use stiff paper or cardboard to pick up large pieces.
- Use duct tape to pick up small pieces and powder.
- Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel.
- Place all materials in a sealed container.
- Label as dangerous waste and include a "Toxic" risk label.
- Wash your hands.
- Dispose through a local hazardous waste contractor.*

Learn More

Determine your Generator Status and Waste Designation:

If a business generates less than 220 pounds of dangerous (or hazardous) waste per month, it is considered a Small Quantity Generator. Verify your status—visit the Department of Ecology at ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/manage_waste/which_rules_apply.html

Check out these sites for more Information on Mercury Light Bulbs:

- **Department of Ecology** ecy.wa.gov/mercury/mercury_light_bulbs.html
- **Light-Cycle Washington** walights.org

Business technical assistance or questions about dangerous (or hazardous) waste management:

- **Tacoma-Pierce County Hazardous Waste Line** (800) 287-6429
- **City of Tacoma** cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste
- **Department of Ecology** ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/managewaste.html
- **South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District** Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department tpchd.org/stgpd

**** Find a local hazardous waste contractor on Department of Ecology's Hazardous Waste Services Directory: apps.ecy.wa.gov/hwsd/default.htm***