

FLUORESCENT TUBES

Fluorescent lamps contain significant amounts of mercury that can be inhaled or absorbed through the skin. Mercury is a toxic substance harmful to both humans and wildlife. When fluorescent lamps are broken, the mercury contained within can be released, creating a risk of exposure to the mercury vapor. Mercury that is exposed to the air can enter the environment and be deposited in lakes and rivers, where it can be transformed into highly toxic methylmercury. A half-teaspoon of mercury can contaminate an average lake for several hundred years. Fish or other wildlife can then ingest mercury passing it up the food chain to humans. Once mercury enters the food chain, it is nearly impossible to remove.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 600 million fluorescent lamps are disposed of annually, with over 80% ending up in landfills. Instead of landfilling your lamps, they can now be recycled. Recycled materials recovered from the lamps are aluminum, glass, phosphor and nearly pure liquid mercury. The location of the Fixed Facilities and the hours and days of operation are listed below:

Central Transfer and Recycling Center
11034 NE 117th Avenue; Vancouver
(360) 256-8482
Saturday & Sunday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

West Van Materials Recovery Center
6601 NW Old Lower River Road; Vancouver
(360) 737-1727
Friday & Saturday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Philip Services Corporation
625 S. 32nd; Washougal
(360) 835-8594
First Tuesday, 10:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Mobile collection events
Call Clark County Public Works
(360) 397-6118 ext. 4016 for collection information

Clark County Solid Waste and the Washington State Department of Ecology sponsor the program to collect mercury bearing waste, such as, fluorescent lamps, mercury thermometers and mercury switches, as well as other household hazardous wastes: pesticides, paints, batteries, thinners, oil, antifreeze and household cleaners. There is no charge for household hazardous waste brought to the facilities. However, participants may only bring up to 25 gallons of waste per household and the waste must be in 5 gallons containers or smaller.

For additional information, please contact Clark County Solid Waste at 397-6118 ext 4352.

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