



Compact Fluorescent Light and Fluorescent Bulb Fact Sheet



There are several different varieties of mercury-containing lamps in use today, including fluorescent lamps, high-pressure sodium lamps, mercury vapor lamps, and metal halide lamps. All of these contain quantities of mercury that may be harmful to the environment, human health and, if broken, are classified as hazardous wastes. When still intact, spent mercury tubes are classified as universal waste under both the United States Environmental Protection Agency Universal Waste Rule and Title 128, Chapter 25 of the Nebraska Hazardous Waste Regulations. Standard fluorescent light tubes disposed of by businesses are not allowed in the Lincoln landfill, and may pose health hazards to humans and animals. If your business uses any of the above-mentioned bulbs, contact a recycler listed below for proper disposal. Low mercury fluorescent light tubes (green tips) contain 40-50% less mercury than standard fluorescent tubes and are allowed in the landfill. A special waste permit is required if more than 43 lbs. of low mercury tubes are disposed in the landfill per month. To obtain a special waste permit, contact the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at (402) 441-8021. An additional disposal option for fluorescent light tubes is through hazardous waste collections for households and conditionally exempt small quantity generators. Contact the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department for more information on the collection events.

Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) are miniature versions of full-sized fluorescent bulbs and are 4 times more efficient and last up to 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb. While CFLs supply an equal amount of light, in comparison to their incandescent counterparts, they use up to 80% less energy. The initial cost of a CFL is more expensive yet the total expense outcome is much less. CFLs may be used in most places where an incandescent bulb is used.

CFLs also contain small traces of mercury, and proper care must be taken when disposing of CFLs despite these low mercury levels. When CFLs are burnt out or broken, as with fluorescent and other mercury containing lamps, proper disposal is necessary. Please refer to and contact a local recycler from the provided list below or take them to a hazardous waste collection sponsored by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

References

For more information on fluorescent lighting and the proper disposal and recycling of fluorescent and compact lighting bulbs, please visit,

www.RecycleBulb.com

Lists various types of bulbs, and how to recycle each. Also provides a search tool for bulb use and recycling locations.

www.LampRecycle.org

Lists EPA regulations as well as benefits and tips on recycling.

Or call,

NE Dept. of Environmental Quality at (402) 471-4210

Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Dept. at (402) 441-8021

Recycle

Recycling is the preferred method of disposal as it is beneficial to the environment. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that businesses and consumers take advantage of local recycling options and is working with manufacturers and recyclers to expand recycling opportunities. In all cases, there is likely to be a service charge for recycling CFL bulbs. The service charge, quantity of bulbs, and a pick up schedule can be determined by cooperating with your chosen recycling vendor.

Local Recyclers

Retrofit Recycling

St. Paul, MN
(800) 274-1309

A-Tec Recycling

Des Moines, IA
(800) 551-4912

Univar USA, Inc.

Omaha, NE
(800) 909-4897

Safety Kleen

Omaha, NE
(402) 333-6321

Lewis & Clark Wireless

Hartington, NE
(402) 254-3316
(402) 357-2457

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Questions? Contact WasteCap:
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phone: (402)436-2383 or 888-EWASTE9

Your Business Recycling Resource

