

MINNESOTA WASTE WISE
FACT SHEET
FLUORESCENT BULB RECYCLING

RESOURCES

Recycling Mercury-Containing Light Bulbs: Information for Businesses

U.S. EPA

<http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/wastetypes/universal/lamps/>

Rethink Recycling

www.rethinkrecycling.com

RECYCLERS

Green Lights Recycling

Blaine, MN

(763) 785-0456

www.greenlightsrecycling.com

The Retrofit Companies

Owatonna, MN

(800) 795-1230

www.retrofitcompanies.com

MANAGEMENT OF FLUORESCENT BULB WASTE

Fluorescent bulbs, HID lamps, neon and ballasts are banned from the trash in the state of Minnesota because they contain mercury (Minnesota Statutes 115A.932). If disposed of properly, fluorescent lights pose no threat to the natural environment.

FACTS & FIGURES

Mercury is an essential component of many energy-efficient light bulbs. The two most common types of energy-efficient lighting that contain mercury are:

- Fluorescent bulbs, including compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)
- High intensity discharge (HID) bulbs.

Fluorescent bulbs provide lighting to most schools, hospitals, office buildings and stores. HID bulbs include mercury vapor bulbs, metal halide and high-pressure sodium bulbs, and are used for streetlights, floodlights, parking lots, and industrial lighting. Other mercury containing bulbs include neon/argon lamps commonly used in the electric sign industry.

How much mercury is in a CFL or other fluorescent light bulb?

According to the EPA the typical range is between 3.5 milligrams to 15 milligrams. The amount of mercury varies depending on the type of fluorescent light bulb, the company that makes the light bulb and when the fluorescent light bulb was made.

What are the advantages of using fluorescent light bulbs?

Fluorescent light bulbs (including compact fluorescent bulbs) are an energy-efficient lighting option, which will save your company money on its energy bills. The use of fluorescent light bulbs, rather than incandescent light bulbs, reduces the release of mercury and greenhouse gases from coal-burning power plants.

According to the EPA, if every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified CFL, it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to more than 800,000 cars annually.

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