

Don't Trash Fluorescent Lamps, They Contain Mercury!



Good Storage



Mercury-Containing Lamps

- ▶ Compact Fluorescent Lamps
- ▶ Metal Halide Lamps
- ▶ Linear Fluorescent Lamps
- ▶ Mercury Vapour Lamps
- ▶ Fluorescent U-Tubes
- ▶ Fluomeric Lamps
- ▶ Sodium Vapour Lamps



Improper Storage

Take Mercury-Containing Lamp Out of Service

- ▶ Store lamp in Designated Storage Area,
- ▶ Label boxes with expired lamps differently from unused lamps.
- ▶ Ensure lamps are stored in a manner that prevents breakage, and close boxes.

Conduct Weekly Inspections of Storage Area

- ▶ Check for improperly stored bulbs or damaged bulbs
- ▶ Contain lamps showing evidence of breakage / damage. Do not try and remove debris from the bottom of a box.
- ▶ Leave broken lamps in box and seal the box and store separately from undamaged bulbs
- ▶ Record the number of lamps in the storage area and compare to accumulation limit

Once Accumulation Limit is anticipated, or has been reached contact "off-site disposal option".

Packaging and Handling of Mercury-Containing Lamps

Do not tape lamps together. This makes them difficult to process

Boxes should be filled to capacity to prevent movement.

Ensure the bottoms of boxes are secure and support the contents.

Do not over-pack a box so that any movement will cause a bulb to break.

Do not place heavy objects on top of boxes or individual fluorescent lamps.

Ensure containers are labelled to distinguish spent lamps from new lamps.

For high intensity discharge lamps or other non-straight lamps use any sturdy cardboard box for storage. Wrap one sheet of newspaper around the lamp, or slip it back into its original casing.

What to do when a Mercury-Containing lamp breaks.

Leave the room

Avoid stepping on any broken glass.

Ventilation

Ventilate the room for at least 15 minutes prior to starting clean-up by opening windows and doors to the outdoors. This will ensure that mercury vapour levels are reduced before you start cleaning.

Clean-up Directions for Hard and Carpeted Surfaces

Do not use a vacuum to clean up the initial breakage, as it will spread the mercury vapour and dust throughout the area and may contaminate the vacuum.

Wear disposable gloves, if available, to avoid direct contact with mercury and to prevent cuts.

Scoop or sweep up the broken pieces and debris with two pieces of stiff paper or cardboard. Do not use a broom.

Use sticky tape, such as duct tape or masking tape, to pick up any remaining fine glass or powder.

Wipe the area with a damp paper towel, cloth or disposable wet wipe to remove any residual particles.

Place the broken glass and clean-up materials in a glass container with a tight fitting lid to further minimize the release of mercury vapour.

Broken Lamps in a box

When a broken lamp is discovered in a box seal the box with tape if possible while still containing the broken glass inside the box.

Do not attempt to remove the broken glass indoors or in a poorly ventilated area.

Move the box outdoors in a secure area, and arrange to have the glass disposed of with other mercury-containing lamps that are intact.

Carpeting - Steps to Take After the Initial Clean-up

If the rug is removable, take it outside, shake and air it out for as long as is practical.

The first time you vacuum on installed carpet after the clean-up, shut the door to the room or close off the area as much as possible and ventilate the room in which the lamp was broken by opening the windows and doors to the outside. When the vacuuming is done, remove the bag, wipe the vacuum with a damp paper towel, cloth or disposable wet wipe, and then place the vacuum bag and paper towel in a sealed plastic bag outside. In the case of a canister vacuum, wipe the canister out with a wet paper towel and dispose of the towel as outlined above. Continue to ventilate the room for 15 minutes once the vacuuming is completed.

Disposal

Immediately place waste material outside of the building in a protected area.

Dispose of the waste along with other mercury-containing lamps as soon as possible. Check the off-site disposal plan.

Washing

Wash your hands after storing and disposing of waste.