

What To Do If You Break A Mercury Containing Lamp February 2010

NOTE: This document is not a substitute for the rules. To properly manage mercury-containing waste lamps as universal waste, you must comply with all applicable provisions in the Arizona Universal Waste Rule (A.A.C. R18-8-273) and the Federal Universal Waste Regulation (40 CFR § 273).

BACKGROUND

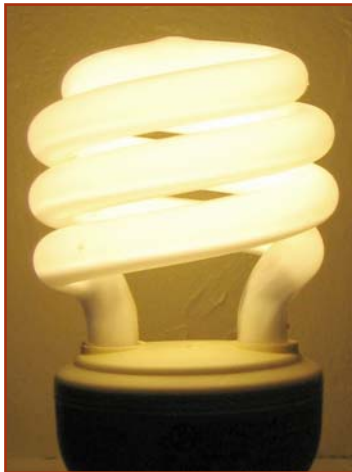
Mercury Containing Lamps (lamps) are lighting more homes than ever before, and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality encourages households to use and recycle them safely. Carefully recycling lamps prevents the release of mercury into the environment and allows for the reuse of glass, metals and other materials that make up a fluorescent light's structure. Lamps contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within a glass housing. They do not pose a health hazard when used and handled properly, however if broken, mercury can escape and pose a hazard to you or the environment. Please consult the following guidelines for cleaning up a broken lamp.

WHAT IS A MERCURY CONTAINING LAMP?

Bulb or tube portion of an electric lighting device that is designed to produce radiant energy. Includes, but not limited to, fluorescent [tubular and compact florescent lamps (CFLs)]; high intensity discharge; neon; mercury vapor; high pressure sodium; and metal halide lamps.

BEFORE YOU CLEAN UP: AIR OUT THE ROOM

- Restrict pets and people from the area.
- Open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes or more.
- Shut off forced-air heating/air conditioning system.



Mercury Containing Lamps, including CFLs, use approximately 20%-25% less electricity, which in turn reduces mercury and greenhouse gas emissions from power generating stations.

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

- Disposable gloves
- Stiff piece of paper or cardboard
- Glass jar with lid or sealed plastic bag
- Sticky tape or damp cloth/paper towel

CLEAN-UP STEPS: HARD SURFACES

1. Wearing gloves, scoop glass fragments and powder into a glass jar or plastic bag.
2. Use sticky tape to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder. Wipe the area clean with a damp cloth or paper towels. Place cloth/towels in the glass jar or plastic bag.
3. Do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up the broken bulb on hard surfaces.

CLEAN-UP STEPS: CARPET AND SOFT SURFACES

1. If vacuuming the carpet is needed, remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister), and put the bag and vacuum debris in a sealed plastic bag. Vacuuming increases the chances of mercury droplets being dispersed into the air.
2. If clothing or bedding materials come in direct contact with broken glass or powder, the material should be thrown away. Do not wash.
3. You can, however, wash materials that have been exposed to mercury vapor, such as the clothing you are wearing when cleaning the broken lamp, as long as that clothing has not come into direct contact with the materials from the broken lamp.
4. Wipe off shoes with a damp cloth or paper towels. Place the cloth/towels in a glass jar or plastic bag for disposal.

DISPOSAL OF CLEAN-UP MATERIALS

- Immediately place all clean-up materials outdoors in a trash container or protected area for the next normal trash pickup.
- Wash your hands after disposing of the clean-up materials.

FUTURE CLEANING OF CARPETING OR RUG

- The next several times you vacuum, shut off the forced-air heating/air conditioning system and open a window before vacuuming. Leave open for 15 minutes after vacuuming.

WHAT NEVER TO DO WITH A MERCURY SPILL

- Never use a broom to clean up mercury. It will break the mercury into smaller droplets and disperse them.
- Never pour mercury down a drain. It may lodge in the plumbing and cause future problems during plumbing repairs. If discharged, it can cause contamination of the septic tank or sewage treatment plant.
- Never wash contaminated clothing in a washing machine. Mercury may contaminate the machine and/or pollute the environment. Clothing that has come into direct contact with mercury should be disposed.
- Never walk around if your shoes might be contaminated with mercury. Contaminated clothing can also spread mercury throughout the environment.

MORE INFORMATION

For additional information regarding this subject, please contact ADEQ:

Hazardous Waste Inspections and Compliance Unit
Waste Programs Division
1110 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 771-4673 or
toll free at (800) 234-5677 Ext. 771-4673

Hearing impaired persons call
ADEQ's TDD line: (602) 771-4829

www.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/index.html

WEB SITES THAT MAY PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Energy Star Web site on CFLs:
www.energystar.gov/cfls
- EPA's Web sites on Mercury and Mercury Containing Products:
www.epa.gov/mercury
www.epa.gov/epr/products/mercury.htm
- EPA's Broken Lamps Clean-up Procedures:
www.epa.gov/mercury/spills/index.htm#fluorescent
- Local Recycling Options for Households:
www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling
www.earth911.org

RECYCLING FACILITIES

The following are some options for lamp disposal. Please contact the facility to verify hours of operation. Some organizations may not accept all types of lamps or may charge a small fee. In addition to those listed below, please check with your local Ace Hardware, Home Depot, or Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility as other possible recycling locations.

IKEA Tempe
2110 W. IKEA Way
Tempe, AZ 85284
(480) 496-5658

Lighting Resources, LLC
1522 East Victory Street, Suite #4
Phoenix, AZ 85040
(602) 276-4278

WM Universal Waste Lamp Tracker, Inc.
10 South 48th Street, Suite #4
Phoenix, AZ 85043
(602) 353-9282

City of Tucson and Pima County
Main HHW Program – Main Facility
2440 West Sweetwater Drive
Tucson, AZ 85705
(520) 888-6947

Hazardous Products Center (HPC)
6770 East Landfill Road
Flagstaff, AZ 86004
(928) 527-9005