

What if it Breaks?

San Mateo County recommends these cleanup procedures, based on State and Federal EPA guidelines.

- #1 **Open a window** and leave the room for 15 minutes or more.
- #2 **Cleanup the broken fragments...**

On a hard surface...

Carefully scoop up the fragments and powder with stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a sealed plastic bag. Use disposable rubber gloves, if available (i.e., do not use bare hands). Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes and place them in the plastic bag. Do not use a broom to clean up the broken bulb on hard surfaces.

On a rug or carpet...

Do not use a vacuum cleaner! A vacuum will spread the mercury over a larger area, resulting in ineffective cleanup & health risks to you. Instead of vacuuming, wear latex gloves and carefully clean up the fragments **following the steps above for hard surfaces**. Sticky tape (such as duct tape) can be used to pick up small pieces and powder.

- #3 **Place all cleanup materials & bulb in a second sealed plastic bag.** Place the first bag in a second sealed plastic bag. Wash your hands after handling.
- #4 **Make an appointment** to take it to a County Household Hazardous Waste Event .

Contact San Mateo County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program for broken fluorescent lighting disposal. Call (650) 363-4718, or make an appointment online at www.smhealth.org/hhw.

We Are All Partners!

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
SAN MATEO COUNTY



Protecting Our Health and Environment

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
INTEGRATED WASTE
MANAGEMENT BOARD



Department of Toxic
Substances Control



Pacific Gas and
Electric Company®

Funding for this brochure is provided by the California utility customers administered by PG&E, under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. PG&E is committed to being a leader in protecting and preserving the environment and urges customers to act responsibly with proper cleanup and disposal of broken or used fluorescent lights.

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Fluorescent Lights



**Not in the Trash Can!
Not in the Curbside
Recycle Bin!**



Fluorescent Bulbs : Energy Efficiency & Environmental Protection

Fluorescent lights save electricity; making them a good choice for energy conservation. However, they do contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing, which cannot go into the trash.

Benefits of using Fluorescent lights:

Energy Saved:

According to the Department of Energy (DOE), compact fluorescent lights (CFL's) use approximately 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs to produce the same light output, and last up to 10 times as long.

Money Saved: Changing five 60-Watt lightbulbs to CFL's used 8 hours per day would save you \$94.49 a year. To calculate your savings visit: www.ewg.org

Lamp Life: The lamp life for a residential screw in CFL is 6 years (1,000 hours per year for six years as used by EnergyStar). Four foot lamps last 20,000 hours. At 1,000 hours of use per year, lamps last 20 years.

Benefits of using LED lights:

Another alternative to using incandescent bulbs are LED lighting. LED lights use at least 75% less energy, and last 25 times longer than incandescent lighting. **LED lights do not contain mercury.**



This symbol means that the product contains mercury and is printed on fluorescent bulbs and other mercury containing devices. Do not throw these items in the trash. Take bulbs to recycling locations.

Call 650-363-4718 or online at www.smhealth.org/hhw to dispose of other mercury containing devices.

Fluorescent Bulb Recycling Locations

Household Disposal ONLY! Businesses please call (650) 363-4718 for disposal options.

Carlmont Ace Hardware 1029 Alameda De Las Pulgas Belmont	IKEA *CFLs only 1700 East Bayshore Rd. East Palo Alto	Portola Valley Hardware 112 Portola Rd. Portola Valley
Brisbane Ace Hardware 1 Vistacion Ave. Brisbane	Half Moon Bay Electric 429 Main St. Half Moon Bay	Eichen's Lighting 580 El Camino Real San Bruno
Lumiere 1405 Broadway Burlingame	Ocean Shore Hardware 111 Main St. Half Moon Bay	Home Depot *CFLs only 1125 Old County Rd San Carlos
Home Depot *CFLs only 2 Colma Blvd Colma	Reclaim - Healthy Green-Home *CFLs only, 855 Santa Cruz Ave Menlo Park	Niko Lighting 1148 San Carlos Ave San Carlos
Home Depot *CFLs only 303 E. Lake Merced Blvd. Daly City	Halogens, Inc. *CFLs only 216 Broadway Millbrae	Home Depot *CFLs only 2001 Chess Drive San Mateo
Service Lighting 2975 Junipero Serra Blvd. Daly City	Millbrae Ace Lumber Co. 200 El Camino Real Millbrae	Wisnom's Hardware 545 1st Ave San Mateo
Home Depot *CFLs only 1781 East Bayshore Road East Palo Alto	Linda Mar Ace Hardware 560 San Pedro Ave. Pacifica	<i>4' tube limit for drop-off; contact 363-4718 for larger tube recycling.</i>



*Accepts  CFL's ONLY; does not accept long tubes!

San Mateo County Household Hazardous Waste Program partners with businesses to provide convenient recycling options.

www.smhealth.org/hhw