

It's the Law to Recycle Fluorescent Lamps

Fluorescent lamps and high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps, including mercury vapor, high-pressure sodium, and metal halide lamps are banned from regular trash disposal in California because they contain mercury. Even low-level mercury lamps with green markings sold as "TCLP (Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure)-compliant" are banned from disposal in regular trash.

Ballasts from fluorescent lamps are assumed to contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) unless they are marked or tested to show they do not contain PCBs. Ballasts that contain PCBs must be disposed of as a hazardous waste.

When Possible, Buy Low Level Mercury Fluorescent Lamps

Major lighting manufacturers now produce fluorescent lamps with approximately 80% less mercury than the standard fluorescent lamp. Less mercury used in the production phase means less mercury in our water and environment. Low level mercury lamps can be found or ordered in most hardware and lighting stores. Some examples of low level mercury containing fluorescent lamps are:

GE "Ecolux", Philips "Alto", Sylvania "Ecologic"

Although these lamps contain less mercury, remember they still need to be handled as hazardous waste!

Energy Efficiency

Fluorescent lamps use less energy than incandescent bulbs. Less energy use means lower lighting costs for your business, and also fewer air pollutants emitted by power plants. Even though fluorescent lamps contain mercury, when managed properly, they have less impact on our environment than conventional incandescents. Consider using fluorescent lamps whenever possible.

Businesses Must Recycle All Fluorescent and HID Lamps



Proper Lamp Handling

- Do not place used lamps in the trash.
- Fluorescent lamps are very delicate. Applying excess force may cause the lamp to break. *Broken lamps may release mercury posing health and environmental risks.*
- Store lamps in appropriate containers to prevent breakage.
- Keep containers in a secure, dry area until you are ready to recycle them.
- Some mercury recyclers rent or provide cylindrical cardboard boxes for safe transportation of fluorescent lamps.
- Most large hardware stores collect limited quantities of lamps for recycling.
- Provide personnel training about the techniques and hazards of handling lamps.
- Maintain records for three years documenting how many and from whom lamps are received and when and to where they are shipped for recycling.

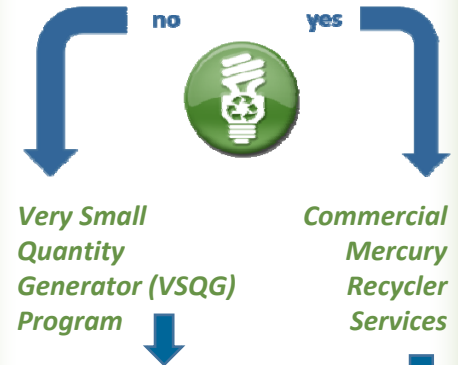


Cleanup

If lamps are accidentally broken:

- Contain spill by using rags or other disposable items to prevent spreading.
- Open windows and keep area restricted until spill is cleaned up.
- Store all clean-up debris in a heavy plastic bag inside a box or rigid plastic container that can be sealed.
- Label container *Accidentally Broken Fluorescent Lamps*. You may send broken lamps to a recycling facility or manage them according to hazardous waste rules.

Do you use more than 100 kilograms of hazardous waste per month?



A VSQG (as the law states) is any business that generates less than 100 kilograms (about 220 pounds or 27 gallons) of hazardous waste per calendar month. San Mateo County businesses that qualify as VSQG may use the VSQG program to drop off used fluorescent and HID lamps. For more information contact the San Mateo County Health Services Agency's Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at (650) 363-4718 or visit

<http://www.smchealth.org/vsqs>

Businesses that generate more than 100 kilograms of hazardous waste per calendar month are considered large quantity generators and may contact their district inspector in the San Mateo County Environmental Health Department at (650) 363-4305 for additional information, or call a certified hauler to recycle their mercury containing lamps and other devices such as thermometers, thermostats, switches, and relays. Alternatively, you may obtain a list of lamp recyclers or hazardous waste haulers at www.flowstobay.org.

Mercury Recycler Services

Household

San Mateo Door-to-Door Household
Hazardous Waste Program
(800) 449-7587

Home Depot
(650) 525-9343
2001 Chess Dr., San Mateo, CA 94404

Home Depot
(650) 592-9200
1125 Old County Rd., San Carlos, CA 94070

Commercial

AERC Recycling Solutions
30677 Huntwood Ave, Hayward
(800) 628-3675; (510) 429-1129

EasyPak
<http://www.lamprecycling.com/>
(888) 640-6700

Lighting Resources, Inc.
<http://www.lightingresourcesinc.com/>
(888) 923-7252

Shoreway Environmental Center
(650) 802-8355
333 Shoreway Rd., San Carlos, CA 94070

Or visit www.baywise.org
And enter your zip code to find the
nearest recycling or household
hazardous waste collection center.

Or Call **1-800 CLEAN UP**

Company names are provided for information
purposes and are not endorsed by SMCWPPP.

For More Information...

San Mateo County Environmental Health
Division's **Household Hazardous Waste Hotline**
includes information for businesses who qualify
for the Very Small Quantity Generator Program:
(650) 363-4718

For additional information visit the
www.flowstobay.org or contact **your local
stormwater program:**

Town of Atherton	(650) 752-0541
City of Belmont	(650) 595-7427
City of Brisbane	(415) 508-2130
City of Burlingame	(650) 558-7230
Town of Colma	(650) 757-8888
City of Daly City	(650) 991-8200
City of East Palo Alto	(650) 853-3189
City of Foster City	(650) 286-3270
City of Half Moon Bay	(650) 726-8260
Town of Hillsborough	(650) 375-7411
City of Menlo Park	(650) 330-6740
City of Millbrae	(650) 259-2339
City of Pacifica	(650) 738-3767
Town of Portola Valley	(650) 851-1700
City of Redwood City	(650) 780-7464
City of San Bruno	(650) 616-7160
City of San Carlos	(650) 802-4361
City of San Mateo	(650) 522-7350
City of S. San Francisco	(650) 829-3848
Town of Woodside	(650) 851-6790
County of San Mateo	(650) 363-4305



Last Updated May 2014

Properly Recycle Mercury Containing Lamps – *It's the Law!*




SAN MATEO COUNTYWIDE
**Water Pollution
Prevention Program**
www.flowstobay.org

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