

Fluorescent Lighting Tubes

February, 2013

This is an item that is treated differently depending on if it is from a private home or if it is from a larger business, school, etc. Fluorescent bulbs contain mercury, which is a hazardous substance and is not to be handled or inhaled. When fluorescent tubes are broken, the mercury can vaporize and come into contact with humans.

Obviously, large users of such tubes like schools, businesses, government offices, etc. have the potential to create a lot of waste. Consequently, the law requires that such facilities recycle the fluorescent lighting tubes. Again, we do take these at the Transfer Station and there is NO CHARGE. It is another service provided by the other fees, property taxes, and per capita charges that you pay.

Additionally, we do take tubes from the public. Even though you are not REQUIRED to recycle them, we would appreciate it if you would bring them to the Transfer Station when you come out with other materials. They can be stored carefully someplace safe and then periodically dropped off at the Transfer Station. These tubes are sent to a recycler where the mercury is recovered and the glass reused.

Today, many of you have fluorescent BULBS in your home. There are many brands, styles, and sizes of screw-in bulbs that are really mini-fluorescent lights. These are commonly called compact fluorescent lights (CFL). If you read the packaging on these, you'll note it says "Lamp Contains Mercury.....Manage In Accord With Disposal Laws".

So treat these types of bulbs in the same way that you would treat fluorescent tubes.

Granted lots of these "hazards" are very small quantities. But a little mercury here, a little cadmium there, a dab of lead in your lungs, or a little zap of radiation now and again.....well it all adds up. We often think we are careful in our lives but how many of us expose ourselves to these hazards in our everyday lives? Just a little time and effort could not only protect you and your family but friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Recycling doesn't take that much time nor that much effort!!