



Hazardous Waste Program Factsheet

USED LAMPS

Do not throw mercury containing lamps in the trash!

Recycling mercury containing lamps protects our environment from heavy metal contamination. Each year, an estimated 600 million mercury containing lamps are disposed of in U.S. landfills amounting to 30,000 pounds of mercury waste. For instance, each fluorescent lamp contains about 24mg/kg of mercury. The EPA classifies any waste containing 0.2mg/kg of mercury a hazardous waste.

- Circular and U-tube Lamps
- Fluorescent Lamps
- High Pressure Sodium Lamps
- Metal Halide Lamps
- Compact Fluorescent Lamps
- High Intensity Discharge (HID) Lamps
- Mercury Vapor/UV Lamps
- Neon Lamps

Packaging, Labeling and Disposal

Place the mercury containing lamps in a sturdy box or container. Label the container as "Universal Waste – Mercury Containing Lamp" and include the date when the waste was first generated. Used mercury containing lamps must be transferred to EH&S for recycling within 9 months of being generated. Facilities Management should transport used lamps to EH&S for recycling. If you have generated used mercury containing lamps by replacing the lamps yourself in your lab or office please please fill out a UCSB Waste Pickup Request Form and send it to EH&S via campus mail or fax it to 893-7259 (please do not call EH&S). To electronically send a waste pickup request visit EH&S' web site.

Broken Lamp Spill Cleanup

1. Do not throw mercury containing lamps, broken or unbroken, into the regular trash.
2. Ventilate area where breakage occurred.
3. Wear appropriate PPE. At a minimum wear gloves appropriate for broken glass and safety glasses.
4. Take the usual precautions for collection of broken glass.
5. Cleanup powder residual with a suitable means (i.e. wet rag) that avoids dust generation. Do not vacuum with a household machine.
6. Dispose of cleanup materials and lamp remnants in closed containers.

If at any time you feel the lamp breakage is too large for an individual to cleanup, please contact your supervisor and call Environmental Health and Safety for assistance.