

Information for Businesses

Where to Recycle Fluorescent Lamps/Tubes

List Updated April 2014

It is Illegal to Discard Fluorescent Light Tubes/Lamps in the Trash!

In fact, fluorescent lamps and tubes, batteries, computer and television monitors, and electronic devices are all wastes banned from the trash. Many common products that we use in our daily lives contain potentially hazardous ingredients and require special care when disposed of. Regulations to protect public health and the environment have been changing. This is because we now know that some common items that have traditionally been thrown in your household's or small business' trash cannot be safely disposed in landfills.

Fluorescent tubes contain mercury and become hazardous wastes when they no longer work. When mercury-containing lamps or tubes are placed in the trash and collected for disposal, the lamps or tubes are broken and mercury is released to the environment. Mercury vapors from broken lamps or tubes can be absorbed through the lungs into the bloodstream. People who are particularly close to the breakage are especially at risk. Mercury from broken lamps and tubes can also be washed by rain water into waterways. Mercury poses especially serious hazards to pregnant women and small children. Non-working tubes must be recycled by an authorized recycling firm and cannot be discarded in the trash.

After February 8th, 2006, all fluorescent lamps in California must be recycled. (Title 22, division 4.5, chapter 11, section 66261.50) Although spent fluorescent lights CAN NOT go into the trash, there are several options for getting them to an environmentally safe and responsible recycler.

Businesses (according to the CA Dept of Toxic Substance Control):

- Must send fluorescent waste tubes and/or bulbs to a fluorescent lamp recycling firm.
- May handle fluorescent tubes/bulbs as universal waste which allows for the option of self-transport and use of an invoice, bill of lading, or other document rather than a hazardous waste manifest.
- May accumulate spent tubes for up to one year before sending them to a recycling firm.
- Should provide informal training for most employees handling spent tubes.
- Must keep some form of documentation to demonstrate tubes were managed properly.

Chapter 23 of the California Code of Regulations does not allow the use of "tube crushers." If you are considering operating one of these devices, you should contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control regarding permit requirements.

A fluorescent light tube in your dumpster is a violation of the hazardous waste laws. Violation of these laws can result in large fines and criminal prosecution. Please refer to the following list as a reference and a recycling guide for how to properly handle and recycle these items. For more information, call the City of Victorville Recycling Program, at (760) 955-8615.

See other side of this flier for fluorescent light disposal options.

Safe Disposal & Recycling Resources for Fluorescent Lights, CRT's and Batteries

Name, Address, and Telephone	Items Accepted	Notes
Lighting Resources 805 E. Francis Ontario, CA 91761 (888) 923-7252 (909) 923-7252	All types of lamps/fluorescents, batteries, ballasts, and e-waste.	Please call first. They will provide you with info regarding account set-up, pick-ups, minimum accepted, packaging materials, mailing program, and pricing.
County of San Bernardino CESQG Program 2824 E. W St San Bernardino, CA (909) 387-5401	Fluorescent bulbs/tubes and conditionally exempt small quantity generators.	County program. Please call first for more details. Fee based program. Must make an appointment. \$2 per fluorescent tube. Arrange for delivery or will pick-up for a fee.
Victor Valley Recycling 17474 Catalpa St. Hesperia, CA 92345 760-244-5437	Fluorescent bulbs/tubes. Cost for fluorescent lights as of 4/2014 is 12.5 cents/ft. Also accept CRTs, computers, e-waste, scrap metal.	Call for details.
Victor Valley Materials Recovery Facility 17000 Abbey Lane Victorville, CA 92394 (760) 241-1284	TV's, computers, monitors, and other "Cathode Ray Tube" (CRT) items. Open: M-F 8 to 4 Sat 8 to 12 noon	There is no payment for these items, but you can drop them off for FREE. Call for more details. <u>Will accept these materials from businesses and residents.</u>
Home Depot 15150 Bear Valley Rd. 955-2999 15655 Roy Rogers Dr. 241-1175 Victorville	Fluorescent tubes up to 3 feet long. Can only take up to 5 bulbs at a time. Cannot accept broken bulbs.	Please take tubes to Returns Desk. Staff will package for recycling.
Lowes 14333 Bear Valley Rd, Victorville, CA 92392 (760) 949-9565	FREE! Accept fluorescent tubes and CFLs (compact fluorescents). Also accept any other kind of light bulb, including incandescent, LEDs, etc. Also accept rechargeable batteries, (including battery packs from power tools) and alkaline batteries.	Can accept fluorescent tubes up to 8 feet long. Cannot accept large quantities all at once due to space limitations. Do not accept broken bulbs, fixtures, or ballasts.
WM Lamp Tracker (310) 833-9671	Electronics (e-waste) Lamps/fluorescents – all types Batteries – alkaline, nickel, and lead acid. Do not do lithium or lithium ion. Mail back program for U-bends, CFLs, HIDs, 4 ft, 6ft, 8 ft lamps, mercury devices, batteries, ballasts (non-PCB only.) Can do pickup for larger quantities. Also do aerosol tracker for full cans.	Service is for businesses only. Not households. Call for details. They will provide you with info regarding account set-up, pick-ups, minimum accepted, packaging materials and pricing.
CA Dept. of Toxic Substances Control Universal Waste Webpage	www.dtsc.ca.gov	Hazardous Waste & Universal Waste (u-waste)
The California Department of Resources Recycling & Recovery	www.calrecycle.ca.gov	Recycling wastes banned from the trash
The Association of Lighting and Mercury Recyclers home page	www.almr.org	This web site has information about recycling lamps and lists the nation's fluorescent tube recyclers.
Call 2 Recycle	Free disposal of rechargeable batteries and cell phones, via mail back program. Free shipping.	See website at www.call2recycle.org for details.