

Compact Fluorescent Bulbs



Benefits of CFLs

- ◆ CFLs last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs.
- ◆ CFLs use up to 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs.
- ◆ This adds up to money savings for you!

Why Recycle CFLs?

- ◆ CFL bulbs can break when thrown in the trash, releasing mercury into the environment. Recycling CFL bulbs prevents the risk of mercury release.
- ◆ When recycled, many components of the bulb are reused, including glass & metal.
- ◆ NH law prohibits mercury containing bulbs from being placed in landfills.

How to Recycle CFLs

- ◆ Bring unbroken bulbs to your local transfer station. The following communities accept CFLs—Amherst, Hollis, Hudson, Merrimack, Nashua, Pelham, and Windham.
- ◆ Bring unbroken bulbs to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection.

2012 Household Hazardous Waste Collections

April 14 ~ Nashua

May 5 ~ Milford

June 7 ~ Nashua (3:00-7:00 pm)

Aug 4 ~ Nashua

Oct 6 ~ Nashua

Nov 3 ~ Nashua

Collection Time ~ 8:00 am—12:00 pm unless otherwise noted

For more information visit www.nashuarpc.org/hhw

Why is Mercury Used in CFLs?

- ◆ Mercury is an essential element to allow CFLs to be an efficient light source.
- ◆ The amount of mercury used in CFLs has fallen over 20% in the past few years. There is an average of 4 mg of mercury in each bulb, compared to 500 mg in old thermometers.
- ◆ No mercury is released from CFLs when they are intact or in use.

Why is Mercury Harmful?

- ◆ Mercury can damage the central nervous system, endocrine system, kidneys, and other organs.
- ◆ Exposure over long periods of time or heavy exposure to mercury vapor can result in brain damage and death.
- ◆ Mercury is particularly toxic to infants, young children, and pregnant women.

CFLs Can Actually Decrease Mercury in the Environment

- ◆ Electricity use is the main source of mercury emissions in the US.
- ◆ The EPA estimates the US is responsible for the release of 103 metric tons of mercury emissions annually. More than half of these emissions come from coal fired electrical plants.
- ◆ CFLs use less electricity than incandescent bulbs. As a result of this decreased electricity demand, CFLs reduce the amount of mercury in the environment.

