



Fluorescent Bulbs

Fluorescent Lamps, including compact fluorescent lights, contain mercury, a toxic metal. When a lamp is broken or placed in a landfill or incinerator, the mercury can contaminate the air, surface water, and ground water. UNC promotes recycling of fluorescent bulbs, and has a system in place to recycle them.

Correct:

- ✓ Recycle your fluorescent lamps.
- ✓ Use low-mercury, green tipped bulbs. These are lower in mercury but do still contain mercury at a level that can cause contamination.
- ✓ Store all spent bulbs in Closed boxes, labeled as “Used Bulbs” and Date the container with the first date that a bulb was put into the box. This box must be kept Closed unless a bulb is actively being added to the box.
- ✓ EHS may be able to provide boxes for accumulation.
- ✓ Bulb boxes should be brought to the EHS Storage Facility across from Surplus Property so that they may be collected for recycle.
- ✓ Compact Fluorescent Lamps may be sent to EHS via our online chemical pickup request system found at https://itsapps.unc.edu/HazMat_Pickup/NonPI

Incorrect:

- ✗ Do Not put used fluorescent bulbs or compact fluorescent lamps in the trash.
- ✗ Do Not intentionally break or crush lamps because mercury will be released.

Please contact Housekeeping if you come across a broken bulb on campus.