

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS (CFLs)

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) use less electrical energy than a traditional incandescent light bulb which could potentially result in substantial electric bill savings. For information about the potential benefits of CFLs visit the following Energy Star web sites:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find_a_product.showProductGroup&pgw_code=LB

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=cfls.pr_cfls_about

For general information on CFLs see the following EPA web site:

<http://www.epa.gov/cfl/>

What's the mercury issue?

CFLs contain a small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. CFLs contain about five milligrams of mercury (roughly equivalent to the tip of a ball-point pen) sealed within the glass tubing.

How should I dispose of unbroken or burned out bulbs?

HOUSEHOLDS

1. If under warranty, return it to your retailer.

2. Recycle it. The following EPA web site provides recycling information:

[Recycling and Disposal After a CFL Burns Out | Cleanup and Safe Disposal of Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs | US EPA](#)

3. Manage it with other household hazardous waste. See the following web site for information about household hazardous waste collection events in Tennessee:

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/swm/hhw/>

4. Place it in sealed bags in outside trash. If you can find no other disposal option, private residents may place used CFLs in their household garbage. It is recommended that the CFLs be placed in a plastic bag, glass jar, or plastic jar, prior to going in the trash bag. EPA has determined that the relatively small amounts of this type of household hazardous waste can be safely handled by modern landfill systems.

BUSINESSES

According to the Tennessee Mercury Product Disposal Control Act (the Act) all businesses of a certain size (i.e., 10 or more employees and/or a building size of at least 3,000 square feet) or function (i.e., electrical distribution systems, building demolition, or tanning beds) should manage CFLs as a universal waste in accordance with Tennessee Rule 1200-01-11-.12 or manage them as a hazardous waste in accordance with Tennessee Rules 1200-01-11-.03 through 1200-01-11-.07. Large and small quantity hazardous waste generators must manage their wastes in accordance with the above rules no matter the size or function of their operation.

More information can be found at TDEC's web site:

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/swm/hazardous/hgproductdisposal/>

What should I do if I break a CFL bulb?

Properly clean up and dispose of a broken CFL to potentially avoid spreading around the phosphorous powder, glass, and any remaining mercury, and to reduce exposure to yourself or others.

For a detailed cleanup guideline see the following EPA web site:

[Cleaning Up a Broken Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb \(CFL\) | Cleanup and Safe Disposal of Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs | US EPA](#)