

# Mercury Lamps Recycling

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Fluorescent light-tubes, compact fluorescent bulbs, mercury and sodium vapor lamps, ultraviolet and HID (high-intensity discharge) lamps and all other mercury containing devices (thermometers/thermostats) are collected by CWS for processing and shipment.



They are processed by placing the 4 foot straight fluorescent lamps in a long 4 foot fiber container and the u-shaped and 2 foot long lamps in a 30 gallon fiber container. The shipping containers are securely closed and properly labeled for shipment to a recycling plant for mercury, glass and aluminum recovery.

The beneficial re-use of these three recovered by-products are:

**Mercury** products at our homes, office or schools are considered safe as long as they in good working conditions. When these items are not handled properly or are carelessly disposed of, they can become a health hazard, especially if they break and the mercury is released to the environment. Common mercury-containing items are compact fluorescent lamps, thermometers, switches, flame sensors, and dental amalgam. Fluorescent lamps are still the main source for mercury being reused.

**Glass** can be recycled infinitely without losing its purity or strength. While the primary end product of recycled glass is new glass bottles and jars, there are some other uses for recycled glass in the manufacturing industry like in the production of fiberglass, marbles, eco-glass, bottles, glass, beads, synthetic marble, roof tile, industrial flooring, jewelry, marblite, and glassphalt.

**Aluminum** end caps from light tubes are recycled. They are made from aluminum and metal. Aluminum is a silver-white metal and is very light in weight and strong. Because aluminum is ductile, it can be drawn into wires or pressed into sheets or foil. Its light weight and resistance to corrosion make it ideal for use in aircraft, automobiles, beverage containers, and buildings. It is also use in the manufacture of radiators, cable, wire, windows, doors, pans, cooking pots, and beverage cans.