



How to Handle Fluorescent and High-Intensity Discharge Lamps

Each year, Florida businesses discard millions of lamps containing small amounts of mercury. When lamps are broken or placed in a landfill or incinerator, the mercury can contaminate the air, surface water and ground water. If you operate a business that generates spent mercury-containing lamps, you should be aware of the rules regulating the collection, storage and disposal of these items in Florida.

Storage of Waste Lamps

- » Store lamps in an area and in a manner that will prevent them from breaking.
- » Do not put too many or too few lamps in the container. Do not tape lamps together for storage or shipment.
- » Label the container as "Universal Waste - Lamp(s)," or "Waste Lamp(s)," or "Used Lamp(s)"
- » Label the accumulation start date on the container.
- » Store onsite for no longer than one year.

Storage of Broken Lamps

- » Do not intentionally break lamps. Mercury is a toxic metal.
- » Immediately clean up any broken lamps and store them in a tightly sealed container.
- » Label the container as "Broken Universal Waste - Lamp(s)" and include the date.
- » Do not reopen the container.
- » Store onsite for no longer than one year.

Record Keeping

- » Keep receipts for shipments of lamps off-site for three years to show the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and local inspectors that lamps were properly handled.
- » Receipts should include the following information:
 - Quantity of lamps shipped or received;
 - Date of shipment; and
 - Name and address of handler or recycling facility receiving shipped lamps.

Florida Administrative Code Rules

To review the rules for spent mercury-containing lamps, visit the Florida Administrative Code website and search for Chapter Number 62-737.