

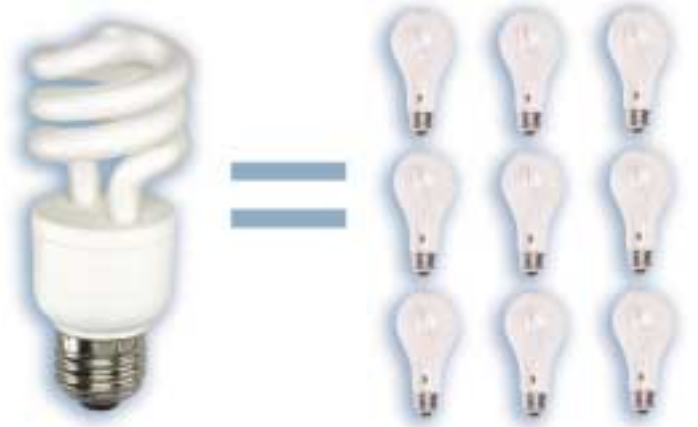
# Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) Disposal Fast Facts



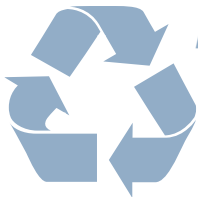
## CFLs SAVE MONEY

Because CFLs are so energy efficient, you can save up to \$30 over the life of each bulb and an average of \$60 annually on your home electricity bill by replacing most incandescent bulbs with CFLs. Their long life also means you spend less time changing burned-out bulbs, an added convenience for you.

*One CFL can last as long as 7—10 incandescent light bulbs.*



## DISPOSE OF CFLs PROPERLY



*The Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance encourages proper disposal of CFLs with other household hazardous waste products, such as paint, batteries, thermostats, etc.*

Some communities offer disposal or recycling programs that accept CFLs. Check with your local or municipal government entity responsible for solid waste or household hazardous waste collection. You can also visit [www.lamprecycle.org](http://www.lamprecycle.org) to research your state's disposal laws and recycling programs.

- If no local option exists in your area, you can lawfully dispose of CFLs in your household garbage. To reduce the risk of bulb breakage or contamination and to protect yourself from cuts, wrap the bulb in a sealed plastic bag and discard it with your trash.
- If your ENERGY STAR®-qualified bulb fails within its one-year warranty period, return it to the place of purchase for a replacement bulb. You should also fill out a CFL failure card (available at most retail locations) to help efforts in tracking lamp performance.
- Never incinerate CFLs (or any other mercury-containing product for that matter).
- If your bulb breaks, your greatest risk actually is being cut by broken glass. Handle it sensibly and be certain sweep up all the glass fragments (don't vacuum, because that can disperse particles). Place the broken pieces in a plastic bag and wipe the area with a damp paper towel to pick up any stray shards of glass or powder. Follow the proper disposal options described above.

## RESOURCES

Your local municipal government entity responsible for solid waste or household hazardous waste collection, such as Metro or DEQ, can provide a list of regional facilities or collection events that accept spent CFLs. Other resources include:

[www.lamprecycle.org](http://www.lamprecycle.org)

[www.Earth911.org](http://www.Earth911.org)

[www.lightsite.net](http://www.lightsite.net)

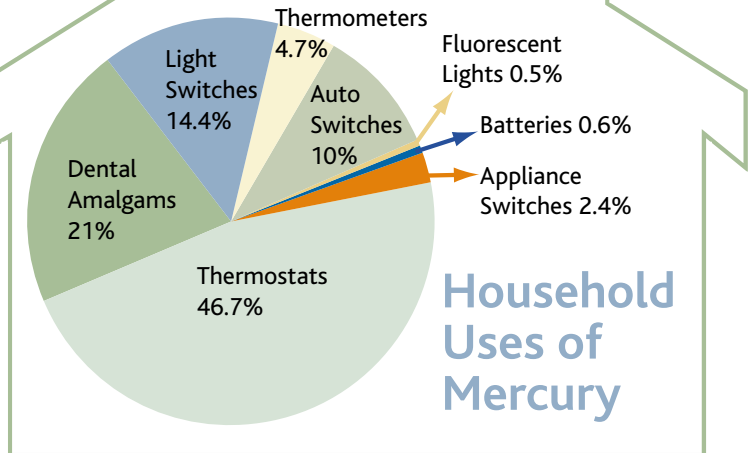
1-800-CLEAN-UP (1-800-253-2687)

## CFLs ARE SAFE TO USE IN YOUR HOME

Mercury occurs naturally in the environment and is also used in many household items: thermostats, thermometers, fluorescent lights, batteries and switches for appliances, lights and automobiles. Exposure to large quantities of mercury in our air, water and fish we eat is a documented risk to human health.

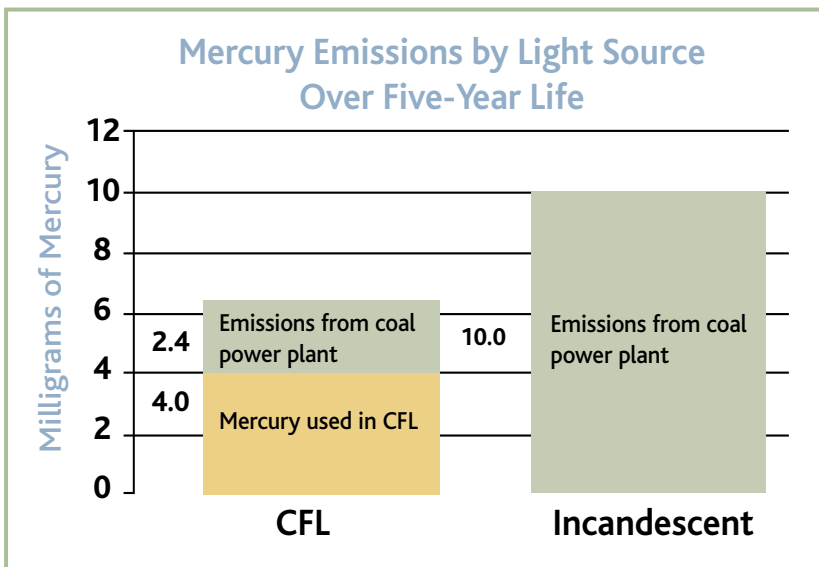
An extremely small amount of mercury—an average of four milligrams—is sealed within the glass tubing of a CFL. It is an essential, irreplaceable element in CFLs, and it's what allows the bulb to be such an efficient light source. For a basis of comparison, there are about one to three grams of mercury in your average home thermometer. It would take between 250 to 1000 CFLs to equal that same amount.

*CFLs are safe to use in your home: No mercury is released when the bulbs are in use, and they pose no danger to you or your family when handled properly.*



Source: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

## CFLS BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT



Source: US EPA, June 2002

Oddly enough, CFLs present an opportunity to *prevent* mercury from entering the environment by helping to reduce coal-fired power plant emissions. One CFL uses up to 75 percent less energy than an ordinary light bulb and lasts between 7—10 times longer.

Experts, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, agree that given a choice between CFLs and incandescent bulbs, CFLs are better for you and the environment because they save you money, conserve energy and reduce landfill waste.

*A coal-fired power plant will emit 10 milligrams of mercury to produce the electricity to run an incandescent bulb, compared to only 2.4 milligrams to run a CFL for the same time.*

## ABOUT THE NORTHWEST ENERGY EFFICIENCY ALLIANCE

The Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance is a non-profit group of electric utilities, state governments, public interest groups and efficiency industry representatives. Under this partnership, these entities support regional programs that make affordable, energy-efficient products and services available in the marketplace.

By 2010, the Alliance and related utility efforts are expected to save the region more than 500 aMW—enough to offset the need to build two new power plants. Reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from the energy savings is estimated at over two million tons. Ultimately, these savings will lower the long-term cost and environmental impact of the region's electricity system, resulting in a healthier economy and cleaner environment. For more information on the Alliance and its programs, visit [www.nwalliance.org](http://www.nwalliance.org).