

Proper disposal of compact fluorescent light bulbs



ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs use up to 75 percent less energy and last up to ten times longer than incandescent bulbs. However, CFL bulbs contain a very small amount of mercury, so you should not put used CFL bulbs in the garbage. While the amount of mercury in a single bulb is extremely small, it will harm the environment if large numbers of bulbs are disposed of in landfills. As energy-efficient lighting becomes more popular, it is important that we all dispose of the products safely and responsibly.

Mercury facts

Mercury is an essential component of CFL bulbs and is what allows the bulb to be an efficient light source. No mercury is released when the bulbs are intact or in use. Each bulb contains about 5 milligrams of mercury that is sealed within glass tubing. In comparison, older thermometers contain about 1,000 milligrams. Manufacturers are taking steps to reduce mercury in their fluorescent lighting products; some CFL bulbs now contain as little as 2 milligrams.

Recycling your CFL bulbs helps the environment

When a CFL bulb is recycled, it is broken down into component materials: metal, glass and mercury phosphor powder. These are recycled and reused in other products.



Where to recycle your fluorescent lighting products

There are locations in your area that offer CFL bulb and linear fluorescent bulb recycling, many free of charge. See the back side for a list of **free** recycling locations.

What if a CFL bulb breaks?

Handle CFL bulbs carefully to prevent breakage. Always handle CFL bulbs from the base when installing and removing them from sockets. When installing bulbs in ceilings or other hard-to-reach places, be sure you are using your ladder correctly and safely.



If a CFL bulb does break, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers the following instructions. The EPA is continually reviewing its clean-up and disposal recommendations for CFLs to ensure that the most up-to-date information is available to consumers and businesses. Please visit www.epa.gov/mercury/spills for current instructions.

- Open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes or more.
- Using disposable rubber gloves, carefully scoop up the fragments and powder with stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a sealable plastic bag. Sticky tape (such as duct tape) can be used to pick up small pieces and powder.
- Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels and place them in a second sealable plastic bag. **Do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up the broken bulb on hard surfaces.**
- Place the first bag in the second bag and bring to a local recycling location.
- Wash your hands after disposing of the bag.

If a CFL bulb breaks on a rug or carpet:

- Remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner, following the steps above.
- Vacuum the area where the bulb was broken and remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister). Put the bag or vacuum debris in two sealed plastic bags and place in the trash for normal disposal.

PSE.com

Free CFL bulb recycling locations

Use this list as a guide and, before you go to a recycling location, confirm the location's operating hours and which products are accepted for recycling. For a complete list of CFL recycling locations, visit PSE.com in the For Your Home section.



Locations that recycle CFL bulbs

Note: Linear fluorescent bulbs are not accepted at these locations



PSE offices: PSE offers free recycling of CFL bulbs at 14 office locations. Simply place your used CFL bulbs in the labeled bins. When the bulb is unbroken, no plastic bags or other wrapping is necessary.

Bellevue Office - East	355 110th Ave NE	Bellevue	1-800-562-1482
Bellevue Office	10885 NE 4th	Bellevue	1-800-562-1482
Bellingham Office	1329 N State St	Bellingham	1-800-562-1482
Skagit Office	1660 Park Lane	Burlington	1-800-562-1482
Ellensburg Office	207 North Pearl	Ellensburg	1-800-562-1482
South Whidbey Office	1794 Main Street	Freeland	1-800-562-1482
Oak Harbor Office	251 SE Barrington Dr #303	Oak Harbor	1-800-562-1482
Olympia Office	2711 Pacific Ave SE	Olympia	1-800-562-1482
Port Townsend Office	181 Quincy Street #101	Port Townsend	1-800-562-1482
Port Townsend Office	310 Four Corners Rd	Port Townsend	1-800-562-1482
Snoqualmie Service Center	35413 SE Douglas St	Snoqualmie	1-800-562-1482
Tacoma Office	3130 S 38th St	Tacoma	1-800-562-1482
Wild Horse Office	25901 Vantage Highway	Vantage	1-800-562-1482
Vashon Office	18125 Vashon Hwy SW	Vashon	1-800-562-1482

Other utilities: Many utilities now offer free CFL bulb recycling at their offices. Check with your local utility for locations in your area.

Retailers: These retailers host free CFL bulb recycling stations at stores in your neighborhood.

Bartell Drugs - www.bartelldrugs.com/stores

Home Depot - www.homedepot.com

IKEA - info.ikea-usa.com/StoreLocator



Locations that properly dispose of CFL bulbs, linear fluorescent tubes and household hazardous waste

King County: Factoria HHW Facility	13800 SE 32nd St	Bellevue	206-296-4466
Whatcom County HHW Facility	3505 Airport Dr	Bellingham	360-380-4640
Island County: Camano Island HHW Facility	75 E Camano Hill Rd	Camano Island	360-387-9696
Lewis County HHW Facility	1411 S Tower Ave	Centralia	360-740-1221
Island County HHW Facility	20062 SR 20	Coupeville	360-678-3328
Kittitas County HHW Facility	925 Industrial Way	Ellensburg	509-962-7542
Snohomish County HHW Facility	3434 McDougall Ave	Everett	425-388-6050
Island County: Bayview HHW Facility	14566 SR 525	Langley	360-321-4504
Skagit County HHW Facility	14104 Ovenell Rd	Mount Vernon	360-424-3873
Island County: Oak Harbor HHW Facility	3151 Oak Harbor Rd	Oak Harbor	360-675-6161
Thurston County HHW Facility	2418 Hogum Bay Rd NE	Olympia	360-754-4111
Kitsap County HHW Facility	5551 SW Imperial Way	Port Orchard	360-337-5777
Jefferson County HHW Facility	282 10th St	Port Townsend	360-379-6911
Pierce County: Hidden Valley Transfer Station	17925 Meridian St E	Puyallup	253-847-7555
King County: North Seattle HHW Facility	Around Aurora Ave N and N 130th St	Seattle	206-296-4692
King County: South Seattle HHW Facility	8105 5th Ave SW	Seattle	206-296-4692
Pierce County: City of Tacoma HHW Facility	3510 S Mullen St	Tacoma	253-591-5418

For more information on CFL recycling, including a complete list of recycling locations, visit PSE.com or call a PSE Energy Advisor at 1-800-562-1482, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.