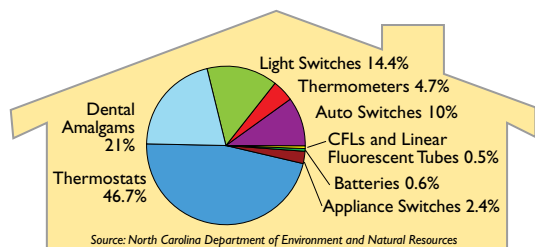


CFLs—A Good Choice for Your Home

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) help preserve the environment by using less energy and reducing landfill waste. A CFL uses approximately 75 percent less energy than a standard incandescent bulb, saving up to \$34 in energy costs over its lifetime and lasting as long as six to 10 standard bulbs. Using energy-efficient products, like CFLs, is one way to curb our growing energy demands.

With more consumers using CFLs, there is increased interest in how to properly dispose of burned out or broken bulbs. CFLs—and all other fluorescent bulbs—require trace amounts of mercury, a toxic metal, in order to work. The amount of mercury in a CFL is extremely small—about the size of the period at the end of this sentence—and does not pose a direct health risk to you or your family.

Where You'll Find Mercury in Your Home



CFLs are safe to use in your home—no mercury is released when the bulbs are in use, and they pose no danger when handled properly.

Mercury occurs naturally in the environment and is used in many household items, including thermostats, thermometers and batteries, as well as switches for appliances, lights and automobiles. People are primarily exposed to mercury by eating contaminated fish.

A bigger concern is the cumulative effect mercury has on the environment as a whole. Repeated exposure to large quantities of mercury is a health risk.

Residential CFL Disposal Options

When your CFLs burn out or break, the best option is to recycle them at

[*Lighting Designs & More*](#), 3595 Clydesdale Parkway, Loveland

[*Orchards ACE Hardware*](#), 269 East 29th Street, Loveland

[*The Home Depot*](#), 1100 Nickel Drive, Loveland

[*Larimer County Landfill Hazardous Waste Collection Facility*](#), 5887 West Taft Hill Road, Fort Collins

Disposal Tips

- Enclose the CFL bulb in a sealed plastic bag to reduce the risk of bulb breakage and protect yourself from cuts.
- If a CFL bulb breaks, your greatest risk is being cut from the glass rather than exposure to the mercury. To minimize risk even further, follow this procedure:
 - open windows to ventilate;
 - sweep up all fragments—don't vacuum;
 - wipe the area with a damp paper towel;
 - put fragments and towel in a plastic bag and seal; and
 - drop off at the Larimer County Landfill.

Disposal Options for Commercial Fluorescent Lights

Different regulations apply for commercial fluorescent lighting disposal. According to the federal Universal Waste Rule, fluorescent bulbs used in businesses must be recycled or treated as hazardous waste and are not accepted at landfills with regular trash.

There are various options for recycling, including pre-paid recycling boxes and on-site pickup. The best option will depend on the number of bulbs you have.

The Larimer County Landfill provides a fee-based recycling option for “Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators” of waste under its Business Hazardous Waste Assistance and Education Program. Contact the landfill to see if your business qualifies.

Contact Information

Loveland Water and Power

Call: (970) 962-3000

www.ci.loveland.co.us/wp/power/Conservation/main.htm

Lighting with a Twist

**What
to do
when
your
CFL
bulb
burns
out or
breaks**



PLATTE RIVER
POWER AUTHORITY