



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

# FACT SHEET

GUIDE NO. 2

## COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMP DISPOSAL



**Important Disposal Information**

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) like the ones shown in the chart below are small fluorescent light bulbs that use up to 75 percent less energy than a traditional incandescent bulb, are relatively inexpensive, and can be screwed into a regular light socket. Switching from traditional light bulbs to CFLs is a cost effective way to reduce energy use at home and prevent greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. Because of these reasons we are beginning to see an increase in home use.

Unfortunately, the element that makes CFLs energy efficient is mercury. While the amount of mercury contained in a CFL is small (5 milligrams

as compared to 500 milligrams in the older home thermometers) proper handling and disposal of both non-working, unbroken bulbs and bulbs that break are very important. Please see the reverse side of this flyer for disposal and handling information for compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).

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A power plant will emit 10 Mg of mercury into the air to produce the electricity needed to run an incandescent bulb compared to only 2.4 Mg of mercury to run a CFL for the same amount of time.

Fluorescent 2.4 Mg each

Incandescent 10 Mg each

Milligrams of mercury used to produce energy to run lamp

Information from Ohio EPA

**CFLs actually prevent mercury from entering our air**

BARE PRODUCTS		COVERED PRODUCTS			REFLECTOR PRODUCTS
Mini-spiral or Twist	Tube or Universal	Incandescent/A-line	Globe G25, G30, G40	Candelabra, Post or Bullet Shape	Indoor & Outdoor R20, R30, R40, PAR38

**Examples of Compact Fluorescent Lamps Currently on the Market (from ENERGY STAR)**

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH  
 9955 N Haggerty  
 Plymouth, MI 48170

DIVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES  
 Solid Waste Department  
 734-354-3270 extension 4



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## US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING & DISPOSAL OF BROKEN COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMPS

1. Open a window and leave the room. Restrict access for at least 15 minutes. If you have fans, place the fans in the windows and blow the air out of the room. Note: If the room has no windows, open all doors to the room and windows outside the room and use fans to move the air out of the room and to the open windows.
2. Remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner.
  - Wear disposable rubber gloves, if available (do not use your bare hands).
  - Carefully scoop up the fragments and powder with stiff paper cardboard.
  - Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or disposable wet wipe.
  - Sticky tape (such as duct tape) can be used to pick up small pieces and powder.
3. Place all cleanup materials in a plastic bag and seal it, then place in a second sealed plastic bag. Contact the Solid Waste Department for disposal options.
4. If the bulb is broken on a rug or carpet:
  - First, remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner, following the steps above. Sticky tape (such as duct tape) can be used to pick up small pieces and powder
  - If vacuuming is needed after all visible materials are removed, vacuum the area where the bulb was broken, remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister) and put the bag or vacuum debris in two sealed plastic bags in the outdoor trash or protected outdoor location for normal disposal.

## DISPOSAL OF NON-WORKING, UNBROKEN COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMPS

1. **Check For a Warranty.** All ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent lamps have a warranty. Check the product packaging for more information.
2. **Recycle.** Several companies offer recycle options for both compact fluorescent lamps and/or fluorescent tubes including easy to use pre-paid kits. Plymouth Township does not endorse any company and is only providing information for your use (see the box to the right).  
*Important: do not put fluorescent lamps in the orange curbside recycling container.*
3. **Bring to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection.** Plymouth Township and Wayne County host Household Hazardous Waste collections at no out-of-pocket cost to residents of Plymouth Township. Contact Wayne County at 734-326-3936 or Plymouth Township for more information.

### **DROP OFF, NO CHARGE:**

#### **Home Depot (CFLs only; no tube fluorescent)**

47725 Five Mile Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-207-6147

### **PURCHASE RETURN KITS FROM:**

#### **Cleanlights Recycling, Inc**

665 Hull Road  
PO Box 212  
Mason, MI 48854-0212  
517-676-0044

#### **LightBulbRecycling.com**

3640 Walnut St.  
Boulder, CO 80301  
303-449-1876  
www.lightbulbrecycling.com

#### **Sylvania**

1-800-LIGHTBULB  
<http://www.sylvania.com>

For a list of companies who claim to recycle CFLs, go to:  
**<http://www.LampRecycle.org>**

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