



FACT SHEET

Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Hazards

- Fluorescent light bulbs/lamps, including energy saving compact fluorescents, contain mercury. When a bulb/lamp breaks, it releases mercury - which is toxic to the human nervous system and can poison wildlife - into the air. Fishing in many Massachusetts water bodies is restricted due to mercury contamination.
- When a light bulb breaks, projected shards of glass may injure eyes or skin.

Handling

- Store bulbs/lamps in box or case to prevent breakage. Keep out of reach of children or pets.
- Wear glasses when handling bulbs/lamps.
- If you break a bulb; follow the MassDEP [Guidance for Cleaning Up Broken Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs \(CFLs\)](#).

Management Options

- Do not dispose of in the trash, especially if your community's solid waste goes to a combustion facility.
- See the MassDEP web page on [Fluorescent & Mercury-Added Light Bulbs](#)
- Take to a municipal recycling center, if fluorescent bulbs/lamps are accepted.
- Take to a Household Hazardous Products Collection Center that accepts fluorescent bulbs/lamps for recycling.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

83 Gilmore Drive Sutton, MA 01590 866-769-1621 www.NEDT.org