Recycling at Home

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) contain a small amount of mercury, about 3-4 milligrams each, sealed within the glass tubing. As with many household items such as paints, cleaners, and pesticides, CFLs should be handled properly and disposed of according to state requirements. EPA encourages consumers to recycle their spent CFLs to protect human health and avoid unsafe releases to the environment.

Increasingly, communities, neighborhoods, and even some retailers are offering CFL collection opportunities. For more details, including local recycling locations and contact information for recycling in your area, visit www.earth911.com or www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling and click on “Where You Live.”

State Requirements

Requirements for CFL recycling vary by state. Some states require recycling mercury-containing light bulbs after they burn out. For more information about state-specific requirements, please contact your state or local environmental regulatory agency.

Actions You Can Take to Prevent Broken Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Fluorescent bulbs are made of glass and can break if dropped or roughly handled. To avoid breaking a bulb, follow these general practices:

- Always switch off and allow a working CFL bulb to cool before handling.
- Always handle CFL bulbs carefully to avoid breakage.
  - If possible, screw/unscrew the CFL by holding the plastic or ceramic base, not the glass tubing.
  - Gently screw in the CFL until snug. Do not over-tighten.
  - Never forcibly twist the glass tubing.
- Do not install CFLs in table lamps and floor lamps that can be easily knocked over, in unprotected light fixtures, or in lamps that are incompatible with the spiral or folded shape of many CFLs.
- Do not use CFL bulbs in locations where they can easily be broken, such as play spaces.
- Use CFL bulbs that have a glass or plastic cover over the spiral or folded glass tube, if available. These types of bulbs look more like incandescent bulbs and may be more durable if dropped.
- Consider using a drop cloth (e.g., plastic sheet or beach towel) when changing a fluorescent light bulb in case a breakage should occur. The drop cloth will help prevent mercury contamination of nearby surfaces and can be bundled with the bulb debris for disposal.

Don’t be left in the dark.

Safely clean up and recycle CFLs.
Quick Guide to Cleaning Up a Broken CFL

The most important steps to reduce exposure to mercury vapor from a broken bulb are:

**Before cleanup**
- Have people and pets leave the room.
- Air out the room for 5-10 minutes by opening a window or door to the outdoor environment.
- Shut off the central forced air heating/air conditioning (H&AC) system, if you have one.
- Collect materials (stiff paper/cardboard, sticky tape, damp paper towels/wet wipes) needed to clean up broken bulb.

**During cleanup**
- Be thorough in collecting broken glass and visible powder.
- Place cleanup materials in a sealable container (plastic bag or glass jar).

**After cleanup**
- Promptly place all bulb debris and cleanup materials outdoors in a trash container or protected area until materials can be disposed of properly. Avoid leaving any bulb fragments or cleanup materials indoors.
- Not all recycling centers may accept broken CFLs and some states may have prohibitions on disposal of debris. Check with your local and/or state household hazardous waste authority for disposal requirements in your area.
- For several hours, continue to air out the room where the bulb was broken and leave the H&AC system shut off.

For more detailed guidance on cleaning up and safely disposing of a broken CFL, please visit: [www.epa.gov/cficleanup](http://www.epa.gov/cficleanup).
Reducing HHW in Your Home

Consider reducing your purchase of products that contain hazardous ingredients. Learn about the use of alternative methods or products—without hazardous ingredients—for some common household needs. When shopping for items such as multipurpose household cleaners, toilet cleaners, laundry detergent, dish soap, dishwashing machine pods and gels, bug sprays and insect pest control, consider shopping for environmentally friendly, natural products or search online for simple recipes you can use to create your own.

Below are some ideas to get you started. Additional information is available from EPA's Safer Choice program.

<table>
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<th>Hazardous Waste Source Reduction around the Home</th>
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<td>Silver Polish</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Hazardous Waste Source Reduction around the Home

| Mothballs | Use cedar chips, lavender flowers, rosemary, mints or white peppercorns. |

## Examples of Household Hazardous Wastes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paint &amp; Paint-Related Products</th>
<th>Lawn/Garden Care Products</th>
<th>Beauty Products &amp; Medicines</th>
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<td>Products in aerosol cans</td>
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<td>Oil-based paint</td>
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<td>Alcohol-based lotions</td>
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<td>Rust remover</td>
<td>Snail killer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Varnish</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Herbicide</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fertilizer</td>
<td>Depilatories</td>
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<td></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Household Cleaners</th>
<th>Automotive Fluids &amp; Batteries</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
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<td>Tub &amp; tile cleaners</td>
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<td>batteries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toilet bowl cleaners</td>
<td>Metal polish with solvent</td>
<td>Swimming pool chemicals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Floor care products</td>
<td>Fuel oil and other oils</td>
<td>Photographic chemicals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aluminum cleaners</td>
<td>Lead acid batteries</td>
<td>Mercury thermometers</td>
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<td>Window cleaners</td>
<td>Transmission fluid</td>
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<td>Aerosol cleaners</td>
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<td>Mercury vapor lights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copper cleaners</td>
<td>Antifreeze</td>
<td>Mercury batteries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture polish</td>
<td>Diesel fuel</td>
<td>Fluorescent lights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metal polishes</td>
<td>Motor oil</td>
<td>Fiberglass epoxy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oven cleaners</td>
<td>Kerosene</td>
<td>Lighter fluid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drain cleaners</td>
<td>Gasoline</td>
<td>Shoe polish</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Car wax</td>
<td>Moth balls</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Glue</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Drug Take Back Events

Do you have old, unused, unwanted, or expired medications? Don't flush them down the toilet. Dispose of them safely with **NO QUESTIONS ASKED.**

- Prescription and over-the-counter medications accepted with NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
- NO liquids, needles, sharps, injectables, epi-pens, IV solutions.
- NO medical waste.
- NO illegal drugs like marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, etc.
- Remove medications from their packaging to save space, or at a minimum, mark out your name or any other identifiable information.
- Individuals only. Sorry, businesses are not allowed.

The Drug Enforcement Administration is promoting another "National Take Back Initiative" to offer citizens a way to dispose of unused, unwanted, and/or expired medications with no questions asked. The DEA is interested as a way to prevent diversion of drugs for illicit purposes and to prevent accidental and intentional poisonings. Most abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends. As a water, wastewater, and stormwater utility, Corvallis Public Works also is interested in removing these products from our watersheds to protect our drinking water supply and the aquatic organisms that live in our streams and rivers.

Corvallis Police Department, Corvallis Public Works, OSU College of Pharmacy, OSU Sea Grant Extension, Benton County Public Health, and Republic Services are working together to host a take-back event on SATURDAY, October 22, 2016! Drug collection events can help communities prevent illicit drug abuse, accidental poisonings, and environmental pollution.

If you can't make it to the take-back event, you can always drop off unwanted medications at a **collection receptacle** such as the Albany Police Department (1117 Jackson St, NE) or Philomath Police Department (1010 Applegate Street). Check this page for updated information on new disposal options.

Guidelines for using collection boxes are the same as for take-back events:

- Prescription and over-the-counter medications accepted with NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
- NO needles, sharps, injectables, epi-pens, IV solutions.
- NO medical waste.
- NO illegal drugs like marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, etc.
- Remove medications from their packaging to save space, or at a minimum, mark out your name or any other identifiable information.
- Individuals only. Sorry, businesses are not allowed.

**What else can you do?**
• Only buy enough medication that you can use before it expires.
• If you know a friend who uses the same over-the-counter medication, consider combining purchases.
• If you must discard old medication, place the medicine in a bag and put it in the trash. It will still end up in the environment, but the process of leaching from the landfill will be much slower, and soil organisms may break down some of the chemicals.
• Consider buying fewer personal care products and using those you do buy sparingly.
• Never put medicines or leftover personal care products down the toilet unless the label specifically instructs you to do so.
• When you buy prescription medicine, ask your pharmacist if she can tell you the expiration date from the bulk packaging in addition to the date on the label (always one year from when you purchase the drugs).
• Ask your pharmacist if the drugs will become dangerous after expiration. Some drugs lose some potency, but can still provide some benefits.
Paint Recycling in Oregon

PaintCare makes it easy to recycle unwanted paint


PaintCare collected more than three-quarters of the paint leftover from new paint purchases.

PaintCare established 171 year-round paint drop-off sites; 96.3% of Oregon households are within 15 miles of a PaintCare site. We also picked up large amounts (300+ gallons) of paint directly from 17 places.

The amount of paint collected by PaintCare totaled 717,000 gallons. That's enough to fill almost 80 large tanker trucks.

Latex paint made up 72% of the total paint collected.

Oil-Based paint made up 28% of the total paint collected.

80 tons of metal and plastic containers were recycled.
We all care about making our homes and workplaces safer. But when it comes to cleaning and other products, it's hard to know which ones contain safer ingredients. That's why EPA created the Safer Choice label – to help you find products made with ingredients that are safer for our families, pets, workplaces, and the environment.

**Safer Choice-labeled Products**

Safer Choice labels a wide range of products, including:
- All-purpose cleaners
- Appliance cleaners
- Bathroom cleaners
- Car cleaners
- Carpet cleaners
- Degreasers
- Dish detergents
- Floor care products
- Furniture cleaners
- Glass cleaners
- Hand soaps
- Laundry products
- Kitchen and countertop cleaners
- Pet care products
- Wood cleaners

For the full list of products, visit [www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products](http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products)

**BENEFITS OF SAFER CHOICE**

Products that carry the Safer Choice label have been carefully evaluated by EPA scientists. Every ingredient must meet strict safety criteria for both human health and the environment, including carcinogenicity, reproductive/developmental toxicity, toxicity to aquatic life, and persistence in the environment. Products made with safer chemicals also can improve indoor air quality because fumes from cleaning products can linger long after they have been applied, which can aggravate asthma and other respiratory conditions.

**THE SAFER CHOICE DIFFERENCE**

Our product review process is grounded in more than 40 years of EPA experience evaluating the human health and environmental characteristics of chemicals.

Products that carry the Safer Choice label must meet requirements for:
- Safer chemical ingredients
- Ingredient disclosure
- Performance
- Packaging
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

**CONNECT WITH SAFER CHOICE**

- Like Safer Choice on Facebook: [facebook.com/EPASaferChoice](http://facebook.com/EPASaferChoice)
- Use our hashtag on Twitter: #EPASaferChoice
Be smart about using household products!

Family? For your safe but is it clean? Your home. Sure, clean...

Your home and your community. Here's what you can do to safeguard your family.

- don't pour down drains and toilets.
- don't pour down contaminated Septic tanks or pollution.
- regular fresh pick-up
- and pets, cause
- harm your children
- These products may
- harm you, your family
- ingredients that can
- contain gardening
- auto repair and
- cleaning, carpentry.

Did you know that the products you use for household store and dispose?

The average home can have as much as 100 pounds of environmentaly harmful products in the basement, garage and other storage areas. Make sure yours is safe.
Never

Always

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