

How to safely clean up a broken fluorescent light

Before Cleanup:

- Have people and pets leave the room.
- Air out the room for five to 10 minutes by opening a window or door.
- Shut off the forced-air heating and cooling system, if you have one.
- Collect the following materials to clean up the broken bulb: Stiff paper or cardboard, sticky tape, damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes (for hard surfaces) and an airtight container, such as a glass jar with a metal lid or a re-sealable plastic bag.

During Cleanup:

- Do not vacuum. Vacuuming is not recommended unless broken glass remains after all other cleanup steps have been taken, as doing so may spread mercury-containing powder or mercury vapor.
- Thoroughly scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard. Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder.
- Place the used tape in the glass jar or plastic bag. See detailed cleanup instructions for more information, and for differences in cleaning up hard surfaces versus carpeting or rugs.
- Place cleanup materials in a sealable container.

After Cleanup

- Promptly place all bulb debris and cleanup materials, including any vacuum cleaner bags used, outdoors in a trash container or protected area until materials can be disposed of. Avoid leaving any bulb fragments or cleanup materials indoors.
- If weather and other conditions allow, continue to air out the room where the bulb was broken and leave the heating and air conditioning system shut off for several hours (a study conducted by the journal Science of The Total Environment found that the critical exposure period passes after four hours).

Used or Dead CFL Drop Off Sites: Home Depot, Republic Services Recycling Center, Batteries Plus Fluorescent Light Tubes can be taken to Household Hazardous Waste Event.

Prescription Drug Disposal

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

- No needles, sharps, injectables, Epi-Pens or intravenous solutions.
- No medical waste or chemotherapy medications.
- No illegal drugs like cocaine, methamphetamine, etc.
- Be sure to mark out your name or any other identifiable information.

The Corvallis Police Department regularly hosts drug take-back events for the community. 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).

Used or Dead Batteries

Lead Acid Batteries: Battery Exchange, Les Schaub,

Metal Batteries (NiCd, Li): Home Depot, Batteries Plus, Republic Services Recycle Center