Where Can You Recycle?

Several recycling facilities in North Dakota and Minnesota will accept your used light bulbs and ballasts. Please contact the facility nearest you.

North Dakota

Minot Vocational Adjustment Workshop
Minot, North Dakota
701.852.1014
www.mvaw.org

Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc.
Bismarck, North Dakota
701.222.8262
www.safety-kleen.com

Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc.
Fargo, North Dakota
701.237.9070
www.safety-kleen.com

Waste Recovery Services, Inc.
Belfield, North Dakota
701.575.8520

Minnesota

Mercury Waste Solutions
Mankato, Minnesota
800.699.2895
www.mwsi.com

Waste Mgt. – LampTracker Inc.
Roseville, Minnesota
800.664.1434
www.wmlamptracker.com

Green Lights Recycling, Inc.
Blaine, Minnesota
800.208.8340
www.greenlightsrecycling.com

Recycle Technologies
Minneapolis, Minnesota
800.969.5166
www.recycletechnologies.com

Veolia ES Technical Solutions, LLC
Blaine, Minnesota
630.218.1756
www.veoliaes.com

Retrofit Recycling
Little Canada, Minnesota
800.274.1309
www.retrofitcompanies.com

Mercury Technologies of Minnesota
Pine City, Minnesota
800.864.3821
www.mercurytechnologies-mn.com

For a more complete list, visit

www.ndhealth.gov/wm

For additional information, visit:

www.almr.org

www.lamprecycle.org

www.swana.org

www.epa.gov

Recycling Fluorescent Bulbs

A Guide for Businesses

NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

2009

Why Recycle?

Fluorescent lighting is an excellent business and environmental choice because it is highly energy efficient. Unfortunately, in order to function properly, fluorescent lamps contain **mercury –** a toxic pollutant that persists in the environment and harms human health.

Mercury causes damage to the human brain, spinal cord, kidneys and liver. It is especially dangerous during fetal development and to small children. Any products containing mercury should be recycled to keep this dangerous element out of our environment.

When a fluorescent bulb is broken or placed in a landfill, mercury is released into the environment.

The amount of mercury contained in just 25 standard fluorescent bulbs can pollute a 20-acre lake, making the fish in the lake unsafe to eat.

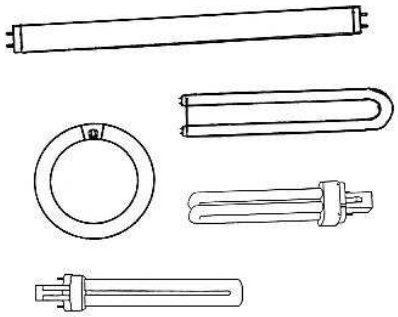
About 80 percent of all fluorescent lamps and tubes are used by businesses. **Several million** of these are discarded each year, making these bulbs one of the **largest sources of mercury** in the nation's solid waste stream.

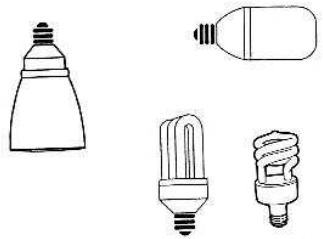
What Can Be Recycled?

Fluorescent lighting comes in a variety of shapes and sizes, usually in two different forms.

Fluorescent tubes

- Long or round tubes found in most businesses





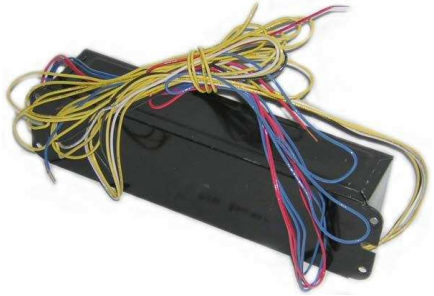
Compact fluorescent lamps

- Also known as CFLs
- Quickly replacing incandescent bulbs in most households

Any of these types of fluorescent lights can be recycled.

Other Lighting Recyclables

In addition to fluorescent lighting**, high-intensity discharge (HID)** bulbs also contain small amounts of mercury. These bulbs typically are found in lamps, overhead projectors, video projectors and some automobile lights. Due to the small amounts of mercury contained in these bulbs, they also should be recycled.



The components of the fluorescent tube or HID lighting systems that supply electricity to the bulbs also may be recycled. The primary concern regarding the disposal of used fluorescent **ballasts** is the health risk associated with **polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)**. Human exposure to these carcinogens can cause skin, liver and reproductive disorders. Fluorescent and HID ballasts contain a small capacitor that may contain high levels of PCBs (more than 90%). These chemical compounds were widely used as insulators in electrical equipment such as capacitors, switches and voltage regulators. If the ballast doesn't specifically say "No PCBs," treat it as though it contains them.