

DNR Briefing Paper

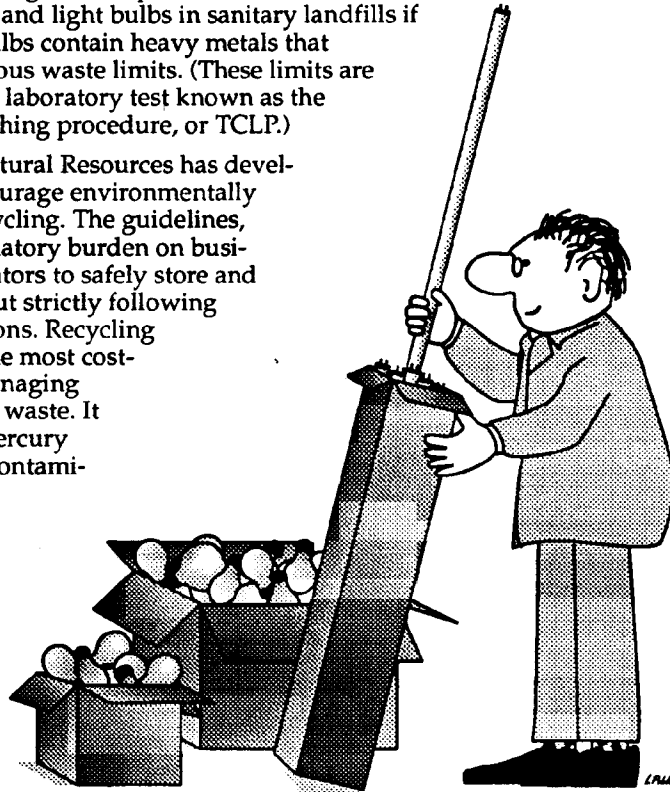
How to Handle Your Waste Fluorescent Lamps and Incandescent Bulbs

Nearly every Wisconsin business generates waste lamps and bulbs that could harm the environment if not properly handled.

State hazardous waste regulations prohibit businesses from disposing of waste lamps and light bulbs in sanitary landfills if those waste lamps and bulbs contain heavy metals that frequently exceed hazardous waste limits. (These limits are determined by a common laboratory test known as the toxicity characteristic leaching procedure, or TCLP.)

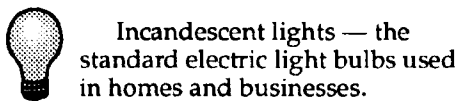
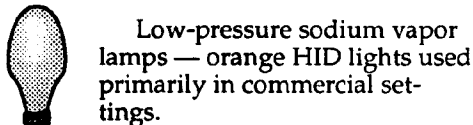
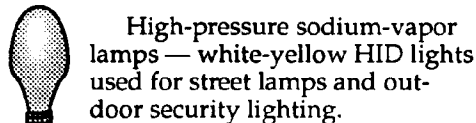
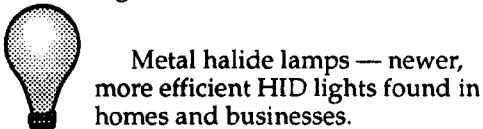
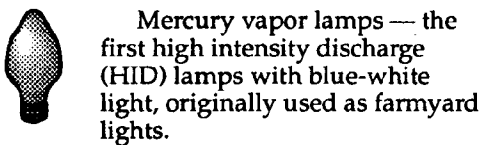
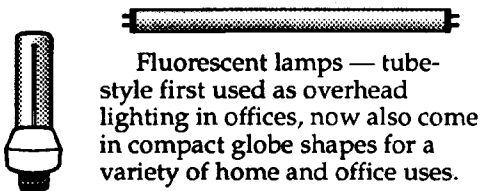
The Department of Natural Resources has developed guidelines that encourage environmentally sound lamp and bulb recycling. The guidelines, designed to ease the regulatory burden on businesses, allow lamp generators to safely store and recycle their lamps without strictly following hazardous waste regulations. Recycling intact lamps is not only the most cost-effective alternative to managing fluorescents as hazardous waste. It also reduces the risk of mercury vapor release which can contaminate lakes and streams.

Businesses that do not recycle their waste lamps may be required to obtain storage, transport and other licenses or approvals from the DNR. The recommended recycling and disposal guidelines appear on back.







Types of lamps and bulbs

Lamps and bulbs that contain toxic heavy metals, such as lead and mercury, whose levels can exceed hazardous waste limits, include:


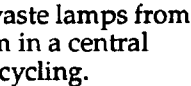
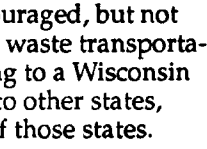
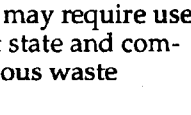



Safe Lamp Recycling & Disposal

Safe disposal methods




-  Place waste lamps in the box in which replacement tubes or bulbs arrived, or in special cartons provided by the lamp recycler.
-  Store lamps in a safe place to avoid breakage, marking the area appropriately to prevent others from accidentally throwing trash in it.
-  Separate and put broken lamps in a heavy plastic bag placed inside a rigid container. If you cannot locate a lamp recycler who will accept them, treat broken lamps as hazardous waste.
-  Do not place broken fluorescents in metal receptacles. Metal boxes will absorb mercury and become hazardous waste containers.

Collection and transport

-  Most lamp recyclers offer transportation services. Waste lamp generators may also contract with a solid or hazardous waste transporter to take lamps to a recycler, or *safely* transport their lamps themselves.
-  Lamp generators may collect waste lamps from several locations and store them in a central facility to ease transport and recycling.
-  Waste lamp generators are encouraged, but not required, to fill out a hazardous waste transportation form if their lamps are going to a Wisconsin recycler. When shipping waste to other states, check the transportation rules of those states.
-  Transportation to another state may require use of a transporter licensed in that state and compliance with that state's hazardous waste transportation laws.

 People who transport waste lamps and bulbs for others must have either a solid or hazardous waste transportation license, both of which are available from the DNR.

General hazardous waste requirements

-  Waste lamp generators do not need to fill out annual reports for their waste lamps. (This policy does not relieve generators of other hazardous wastes from any hazardous waste requirements.)
-  Any waste defined by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) to be a "hazardous material" must be transported in compliance with all Wisconsin DOT and USDOT requirements applicable to hazardous waste (chs. TRANS 326 [interstate] & 328 [intrastate]; 49 CFR 107, 171, 172, 173, 177, 178).
-  Households, which includes hotel, motel and apartment units and common areas, are not subject to Wisconsin hazardous waste regulations, so this policy does not apply to them. However, home and apartment owners are encouraged to safely store their waste bulbs and lamps until a local recycling option becomes available.

Lamp Recycling Businesses

Businesses interested in offering lamp and/or bulb recycling services to other companies must comply with hazardous waste recycling requirements. A hazardous waste storage license is not required as long as waste lamps are stored safely. However, a solid waste storage facility license from the DNR may be needed.

For more information, contact your DNR District solid or hazardous waste staff.

The following is a partial list of services currently available in the region. Inclusion in it is not meant as an endorsement. The DNR has neither audited nor inspected these firms.

Lamp Recyclers

- A-Tec Recycling Inc.**
Box 7391
Des Moines, IA 50309
800/551-4912
- Dynex**
6801 Industrial Loop
Greendale, WI 53127
800/249-3310
- Lamp Recyclers Inc.**
712 Packerland Drive
Green Bay, WI 53707-0794
800/558-1166
- Superior Lamp Recycling**
Port Washington, WI 53074-0500
800/556-LAMP

- Recyclights**
2010 E. Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55413
800/831-BULB
- Mercury Technologies of Minnesota**
Pine City Industrial Park
Pine City, MN 55063-0013
800/864-3821
- Midwest Recycling and Mercury Recovery Services, Inc.**
Dubuque, IA 52004-0667
319/582-4763
- Recycling Technologies, Inc.**
1480 N. Springdale Rd.
Waukesha, WI 53186
414/798-3040

- Salesco Systems**
3800 N. Wilke Rd, Suite 300
Arlington Heights, IL 60004-1267
708/259-8311
- MAVO Systems**
1428 Marshall Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413
612/331-6525
- USA Lights**
2007 County Road C-2
Roseville, MN 55113
612/628-9370

Prepared by the Bureau of Solid & Hazardous Waste Management, Hazardous Waste Management Section
Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921
608/267-7566



Illustrations & design by Linda Pohod



Publ. SW 195-94