



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

## **INFO SHEET**

### **Fluorescent Light Bulb Disposal**

Used Fluorescent, compact fluorescent, high intensity discharge (HID), and UV germicidal lamps are considered a hazardous material and must be collected intact for proper disposal or recycling. The University of Texas at Austin recycles these lamps to provide raw materials for new products and, most importantly, to prevent mercury from contaminating the environment. For instructions on green tip or green print bulbs, call us at 512-471-3511.

#### **Procedures for Packing Lamps**

Used fluorescent, high intensity discharge (HID), and UV germicidal lamps must be collected in containers that protect the lamps during storage and transportation. The original shipping container is the preferred package for spent lamps. Remove extra cardboard end pieces to assure that lamps fit in the box. Remove any plastic lamp sleeves and tape from spent lamps when packing for waste collection. Environmental Health & Safety also has containers available for packaging standard four foot and eight foot length fluorescent lamps. To receive a packing container, call 512-471-3511.

An open top plastic container should be used for other types of lamps such as small lamps, mercury vapor lamps, and other odd shaped fluorescent tubes.

#### **Broken Fluorescent Lamps**

When fluorescent lamps and HIDs are broken, mercury is released to the environment, but some mercury still remains on the surfaces of the glass, phosphor, and the metal or plastic. If a fluorescent, HID, or UV germicidal lamp is broken, all the broken parts must be collected as a hazardous material. Dedicate a 5 gallon plastic open top container labeled with the words "broken fluorescent lamps" to collect the broken pieces, and contact EHS for disposal when the drum is full. The drum must be sealed when it is not actively receiving broken bulbs.

For more information, call (512) 471-3511 or see our website at [ehs.utexas.edu](http://ehs.utexas.edu)

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