



www.lincoln.ne.gov
402-441-8002

MANAGING FLUORESCENT LIGHT TUBES

For Lincoln and Lancaster County Businesses

March 2015

Businesses are banned from putting fluorescent light tubes into the trash.

Why are standard fluorescent light tubes a concern?

Standard fluorescent light tubes contain hazardous mercury. Breaking the tubes create mercury vapor, which is difficult to contain. Breathing air contaminated with mercury can cause nerve damage, liver damage, blindness and brain damage. The City of Lincoln's Bluff Road Landfill does not accept hazardous materials, including standard fluorescent light tubes from businesses.

The best disposal option for fluorescent light tubes is recycling.

The following is a list of recycling companies:

Recycler	Contact	Website
	Call company for costs and shipping fees.	
A to Z Recycling P.O Box 159, Columbus, NE 68602	402-562-5904 info@megavision.com	www.megavision.com
* Safety Kleen, Inc. 2700 W Second Street, Grand Island, NE 68803	308-384-1616	www.safety-kleen.com
* A-Tec Recycling 1701 48th St Suite 100, West Des Moines, IA 50266	800-551-4912	www.a-tec-recycling.com
* Air Cycle Corporation 2200 Ogden Avenue Suite 100, Lisle, IL 60532	800-909-9709 info@aircycle.com	www.aircycle.com www.lamprecycling.com
Bethlehem Lamp Recycling 935 Bethlehem Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18017	610-838-7034 info@bethlehemplamprecycling.com	www.bethlehemplamprecycling.com
* Bulbs.com 243 Stafford Street, Worchester, MA 01603	888-455-2800	www.bulbs.com
* Clean Harbors 2549 N. New York Street, Wichita, KS 67219	316-269-7400	www.cleanharbors.com
* Complete Recycling Solutions, LLC 12 N. World Fairs Drive, Somerset, NJ 08872	866-277-9797	www.crsrecycle.com
Light Bulb Recycling	303-952-1020	www.lightbulbrecycling.com
Mercury Waste Solutions Retrofit Recycling 1010 Hoffman Drive Suite A, Owatonna, MN 55060	800-963-4776 800-795-1230	www.mwsi.com www.retrofitcompanies.com
* Veolia Environmental Services 1275 Mineral Springs Drive Port Washington, WA 53074	262-243-8900	www.veoliaes.com

***Recyclers that can take ballasts as well as fluorescent light tubes**

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department does not endorse or recommend any specific company.

Managing Ballasts

A ballast is an electrical component that supplies electricity to a bulb or lamp. Before 1979, the oil used in many ballasts contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a known carcinogen.

- If the ballast is not marked, it should be considered a hazardous material. Ballasts containing PCBs must be disposed of through a licensed hazardous waste contractor, recycler, or at Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department's Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) collection events. Call 402-441-8002 for more information.
- Ballasts that do not contain PCBs are labeled "Non-PCB." These ballasts can be disposed of at Lincoln's Bluff Road Landfill with a Special Waste Permit and may require a compliance inspection by staff.

Use low-mercury tubes

The low-mercury tubes contain 40% - 50% less mercury than standard tubes and they pass the Toxicity Characteristic Leachate Test (TCLP). Low mercury tubes have green tips or green printing that indicates they are alto or Eco tubes. Most hardware stores sell low-mercury tubes and may also be purchased at the following local companies:

Distributor	Address	Phone Number
Consolidated Electrical Distributors	2000 Judson Street	402-465-5151
Crescent Electric	540 Westgate Boulevard	402-476-2712
Grainger Industrial Supply	100 Oak Creek Drive	402-476-9014
Husker Electric Supply	3450 Cornhusker Highway	402-467-4624
Voss Lighting	5200 South 16th Street	402-328-2283
Wesco Distribution, Inc.	3100 North 33rd Street	402-467-5311

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department does not endorse or recommend any specific company.

How should businesses dispose of low-mercury fluorescent light tubes?

The landfill will accept 43 lbs or less of low-mercury tubes per month without a special waste permit (43 lbs = approximately 114 four-foot T12 tubes). A special weight permit is required if more than 43 lbs of low mercury tubes per month are disposed of. If placing in the trash, the fluorescent light tube must be intact so the refuse hauler is able to identify the green tips or green printing.

For more information...

Regarding recycling, disposal options or alternatives to managing and reducing hazardous waste in your business, **CALL** 402-441-8002, **EMAIL** spwaste@lincoln.ne.gov, or **VISIT** our website at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: business waste).