

If You Break a Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb

*Avoid breathing vapors or touching broken materials
Do not vacuum or sweep*



1. Open windows to vent vapors for at least 15 minutes. Leave the area during this time.
2. Use stiff paper or cardboard to pick up large pieces.
3. Use duct tape to pick up small pieces and powder.
4. Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or wet wipe.
5. Place all materials in a sealed container, preferably made of glass with a good lid.
6. Immediately remove the container from the home.
7. Wash your hands.
8. Dispose of at your local hazardous waste facility – not in your trash.

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Fluorescents Save Energy and Money!



Fluorescent light bulbs and tubes are important tools to save electricity and money. They use only $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the energy of incandescent bulbs. Replacing a single bulb with a compact fluorescent bulb (CFL) will also reduce carbon dioxide emissions by a $\frac{1}{2}$ ton over the life of the bulb.

Mercury-containing bulbs and tubes are safe to use. Their light depends on a small amount of mercury, a potent neurotoxin. Handle them gently, keep the mercury contained, and recycle the bulb or tube properly when it is spent.

Remember:

- **Handle fluorescents gently and use them carefully.**
- **Choose the type with the lowest amount of mercury.**
- **Recycle properly. Call 1-800-RECYCLE for locations.**

See instructions on the other side of this card on how to clean up a broken fluorescent bulb. Post this card where you would look if you should need it.

For more information go to: www.ecy.wa.gov/mercury/mercury_light_bulbs.html.

Pub #08-04-008

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