

Disposal of Fluorescent Lights

Fluorescent Lights and Mercury

Fluorescent lights (whether compacts or tubes) are an excellent choice for home lighting. They are about four times as energy efficient as traditional incandescent light bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. With proper disposal, using a fluorescent light has less overall impact on our environment than using a conventional bulb.

A fluorescent light contains small amounts of mercury, and an incandescent light contains lead. Both are substances we want to keep out of our air and water. In addition, incandescent light requires generating 75 percent extra electricity, which can increase air pollution from carbon dioxide, combustion gasses, particulates and mercury.

Proper Disposal of Fluorescent Lights

In most communities you can dispose of fluorescent lights at centers set up to recycle or safely store household hazardous wastes such as paints, solvents, batteries and automotive oil. Simply store used fluorescent lights in a safe place until it's time to take household hazardous waste to a designated disposal center. You may also want to store any incandescent lights for the same purpose.

If one of the listed disposal facilities is not accessible to you, contact your local solid waste agency or garbage collector for information about other hazardous waste disposal options.

Meantime, PGE is a leader in the effort to create community-based fluorescent light recycling systems across the state. We've helped organize a team led by Zero Waste Alliance, a non profit with the mission of eliminating waste and toxic substances from the environment. Other members include PacifiCorp, Bonneville Power Administration, Metro, DEQ and Northwest Efficiency Alliance.

Disposal Sites

Lake Oswego:
Earth Protection Services
6024 SW Jean Rd; Bldg E
503-620-2466

Portland:
Metro Central Station
616 NW 61st
503-234-3000

Oregon City:
Metro South Station
2001 Washington St.
503-234-3000

Salem:
Salem-Keizer Transfer Station
3250 Deer Park Rd., SE
503-588-5169

Brooks:
Environmental Protection Services
8905 Pueblo
503-474-1586

Note: call ahead to confirm these locations still accept the type of waste you want to dispose.

For more information on efficiently managing home electricity costs, call one of PGE's home energy experts, Monday – Friday at 1-800-722-9287. Or reach us online at PortlandGeneral.com/ee.

