

Fluorescent Bulb, Tube, and Ballast Recycling



What is a fluorescent lamp?

The term "fluorescent lamp" generally applies to mercury-containing lamps, including metal halide, high-pressure sodium, and mercury vapor lamps. There are several kinds of fluorescent bulbs; once the most common commercially used bulb, the T12 tube is now being replaced by the T5, and T8.

Fluorescent lamps are hazardous waste

Because all fluorescent lamps contain mercury, they are considered hazardous waste.

- Mercury is a widely-used product that is also toxic to humans
- People are exposed to elemental mercury by breathing it in vapor form
- It is a persistent pollutant, once it enters the environment, it never breaks down or goes away
- An estimated 3,000 pounds of mercury are released into the environment each year from human sources in Washington State

Crushing lamps releases mercury

Crushing and breaking fluorescent lamps releases mercury vapor and mercury-containing phosphor powder. These can be difficult to contain. Keeping lamps intact until they reach a qualified recycling facility prevents mercury exposure to workers and the environment.

Does your fluorescent light ballast contain PCBs?

Ballasts are integral units essential for proper operation of fluorescent lamps. PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), a highly toxic substance, were used in the manufacturing of fluorescent light ballasts until banned by the EPA in 1978.

- All ballasts produced after 1978 which do not contain PCBs should be marked "No PCBs" by the manufacturer
- Ballasts produced before 1978, or those that do not specify PCB content, should be assumed to contain PCBs


How do I recycle fluorescent lamps and ballasts?

Effective October 1, 2005, King County will no longer accept fluorescent bulbs and tubes (includes "green tipped" tubes and compact fluorescent bulbs) in the garbage or at its solid waste disposal facilities. Virtually every component of a fluorescent lamp can be recycled, including end caps, glass tube, wire, mercury, and phosphor powder.

List of fluorescent bulb, tube, and ballast recycling service providers *

Name	Phone	Location	Materials Handled	Pickup/Drop off
 <u>Ecolights Northwest, LLC</u>	206-343-1247	1915 S. Corgiat Drive Seattle, WA	Fluorescent Light Ballasts, Bulbs, and Tubes	Both
<u>Mobile Electrical Distributors</u>	206-363-2400	14050 Lake City Way NE Seattle, WA	Fluorescent Light Ballasts, Bulbs, and Tubes	Drop off
<u>PC Salvage LLC</u>	253-581-0511	3627 S 54th S Tacoma, WA	Fluorescent Light Ballasts, Bulbs, and Tubes	Both
<u>Safety-Kleen Corp.</u>	425-775-7030	6303 212th St SW Lynnwood, WA	Fluorescent Light Ballasts, Bulbs, and Tubes	Pick-up
 <u>Greenwood True Value Hardware</u>	206-783-2900	7201 Greenwood Ave N Seattle, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Drop off
 <u>Happy Hauler, LLC</u>	206-784-0313	Seattle, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Pick-up
 <u>Kelsun Distributors, Inc.</u>	425-453-1199	13000 Bel-Red Rd. #206 Bellevue, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Both
 <u>Maple Leaf Ace Hardware</u>	206-522-3324	9000 Roosevelt Way NE Seattle, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Drop off
 <u>McLendon Hardware, Inc.</u>	206-762-4090	10210 16th Ave SW Seattle, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Drop off
 <u>McLendon Hardware, Inc.</u>	253-536-6560	11307 Canyon Road East Puyallup, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Drop off
 <u>McLendon Hardware, Inc.</u>	253-850-2722	23662 104th SE Kent, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Drop off
 <u>McLendon Hardware, Inc.</u>	253-863-2264	1111 Fryar Ave Sumner, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Drop off
 <u>McLendon Hardware, Inc.</u>	425-235-3555	440 Rainier Ave S Renton, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Drop off
 <u>PC Recycle - Bellevue</u>	425-881-4444	13107 NE 20th Bellevue, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Both
 <u>Philip Services Corp - Georgetown Site</u>	800-228-7872	5400 Denver Ave Seattle, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Drop off
 <u>Philip Services Corp - Kent Site</u>	800-228-7872	20245 77th Ave S Kent, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Drop off
 <u>Seattle Lighting</u>	206-268-3580	26 S Hanford Street Seattle, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Drop off
 <u>Seattle Lighting</u>	206-575-6224	300 Andover Park W Tukwilla, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Drop off
 <u>Seattle Lighting</u>	206-622-4736	222 Second Ave Ext S Seattle, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Drop off
 <u>Seattle Lighting</u>	360-692-1551	10876 Myhre Place NW Silverdale, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Drop off
 <u>Seattle Lighting</u>	425-252-4151	1811 Hewitt Ave Everett, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Drop off
 <u>Seattle Lighting</u>	425-455-2110	14505 NE 20th St Bellevue, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Drop off
 <u>Total Reclaim</u>	206-343-7443	2200 6th Ave S Seattle, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Both
 <u>Vashon Reclaim and Recycle</u>	206-734-4815	Vashon Island	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Pick-up
 <u>Goods for the Planet</u>	206-652-2327	525 Dexter Ave N Seattle, WA	Fluorescent Light Tubes	Drop off
 <u>Ikea</u>	425-656-2980 x1364	600 SW 43rd St. Renton, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs	Drop off
<u>CleanScapes</u>	206-859-6700	5939 4th Ave. S Seattle, WA	Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Tubes	Pick-up

* Pricing varies per component and service provider. Please call service provider for details.

The  logo designates members of the Take It Back Network, a group of retailers, repair shops, non-profit organizations, waste haulers and recyclers that offer convenient options for recycling certain products that contain toxic or hazardous materials.

For more info, please visit: <http://www.resourceventure.org/> or <http://www.takeitbacknetwork.org/>.