

Fluorescent Tube & Bulb Recycling for Businesses

All Fluorescent Lamps Must be Recycled

It is illegal to dispose of tubes and bulbs as regular trash. Spent fluorescent lamps are hazardous waste because they contain mercury and lead. California's Universal Waste Law simplifies the rules for handling burnt-out fluorescent tubes only if you recycle them. Lamps include tubes (straight, circular, and U-shaped) and compact fluorescent lamps (also known as curly-cue bulbs or CFLs).

Universal Waste Law Requirements

For a complete listing of the requirements please visit the California Department of Toxic Substances Control website at www.dtsc.ca.gov. Here is a summary:

Recycling: Spent fluorescent lamps must be sent to an authorized recycling facility.

Labeling: Each container of waste lamps must be labeled clearly for storage and transportation. "Universal Waste: Lamps," "Waste Lamps" or "Used Lamps" are acceptable. Each container must also indicate the start date of accumulation (when you started to collect them).

Prohibited: Do not deliberately break lamps. If you do, then they must be handled as hazardous waste, not universal waste. We can't explain all the hazardous waste laws here on a flyer, so just take our advice and don't break the lamps.



Accumulation Time: Waste lamps may be accumulated for up to one year, then you need to have them recycled.

Training: Employees must be trained on how to properly handle, pack, store and label the lamps.

Recordkeeping: All records for shipment, disposal and recycling of the lamps must be kept at your business for 3 years.

Lamp Recycling Options

Option 1

Drop off Lamps at The Dump

Mon through Fri, 7 am-4:30 pm

Sat and Sun, 8 am-4:30 pm

501 Tunnel Ave. San Francisco 94134

Businesses may recycle up to 30 fluorescent lamps per month for free at the Public Disposal Area ("The Dump") at SF Recycling & Disposal. The dump also accepts other specialty light bulbs, such as mercury vapor and HID's for recycling. Customers with more than 30 lamps per month can recycle the rest for \$1 per tube or bulb. Call 415-330-1400 or visit www.sfrecycling.com/sfdump.htm for directions and holiday hours. Please do not bundle them together with tape. The best way to prevent lamps from breaking when you transport them is by packing them in their original boxes and keep straight tubes separated from odd shaped tubes and small bulbs.

Businesses with lots of lamps (100 or more) usually prefer to arrange a pick up service or use a mail-in program with fluorescent lamp recycling companies. (Note: regular incandescent bulbs are allowed in the black trash cart or dumpsters but not in your regular recycling receptacles or blue bins.)

Option 2

Have Lamps Picked Up

Some companies pick up lamps from your business. Call one of the companies for fees or more information.

To Find a Lamp Recycler

Please visit the city's EcoFinder at www.sfenvironment.org and Choose "lighting – fluorescent tubes & bulbs" and enter your zip code. Or check the Yellow Pages for additional companies. The lamps dropped off at the dump are picked up and recycled by AERC, a recycling company based in Hayward. Call 510-429-1129 if you want to contact AERC directly.



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SF RECYCLING & DISPOSAL, INC.

415-330-1405 www.sfhazwaste.com