



### **HOW DO I PROPERLY DISPOSE A COMPACT FLUORESCENT BULB?**

More and more homeowners are buying CFL's because of their energy efficiency and long life compared to incandescent bulbs. While the environmental benefits of these bulbs make them preferable to incandescent bulbs, care should be taken to dispose of them properly. These bulbs contain a small amount of mercury about the size of the tip of a ball point pen.



Most household CFL's will last four years or longer. When they finally burn out, they should be recycled. The Home Depot®, the world's largest home improvement retailer, has expanded its long-term commitment to the environment and sustainability by launching a national in-store, consumer compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb recycling program at all 1,973 The Home Depot locations. At each The Home Depot store, customers can simply bring in any expired, unbroken CFL bulbs, and give them to the store associate behind the returns desk. The bulbs will then be managed responsibly by an environmental management company who will coordinate CFL packaging, transportation and recycling to maximize safety and ensure environmental compliance. For more information on the CFL Recycling Program at The Home Depot or to find a store location near you, please visit <http://www.homedepot.com/ecoptions>

Bulbs can also be turned in at the Cuyahoga County *Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up* held twice a year at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds and at many city service facilities. Click [here](#) for more information on local collection dates and locations.

### **WHAT ABOUT BULBS COMING FROM A BUSINESS?**

The Solid Waste District cannot accept bulbs that originate from a business. By law, the Solid Waste District can only accept and dispose of materials that originate from a household and not a commercial source.

For a list of fluorescent bulb recyclers, visit [www.cuyahogaswd.org](http://www.cuyahogaswd.org) and go to the [Recycling Directory for Business and Industry](#). Use the drop-down box to highlight "Fluorescent Bulbs." Prices for disposal range from \$0.65-\$1.00 per bulb.

### **WHAT IF I BREAK A COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULB?**

If you break a CFL, carefully sweep up the broken bulb with a broom, making sure to pick up all the debris. Place the debris in a sealed plastic bag and then dispose in the regular trash. Open windows to ventilate the room to release any mercury vapors that may have been released. Never use a vacuum to clean up the bulb. This can disperse mercury vapor into the air.

For step-by-step mercury clean-up instructions, log onto the U.S. EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/mercury/spills/index.htm#fluorescent>