



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH FACT SHEET COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT DISPOSAL



Talkin' Trash Series

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) like the ones shown are small fluorescent light bulbs that use up to 75 percent less energy than a traditional incandescent bulb, are relatively inexpensive, and can be screwed into a regular light socket. Switching from traditional light bulbs to CFLs is a cost effective way to reduce energy use at home and prevent greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. Because of these reasons we have seen an increase in home use.

BARE PRODUCTS		COVERED PRODUCTS			REFLECTOR PRODUCTS
Mini-spiral or Twist	Tube or Universal	Incandescent A-line	Globe G25, G30, G40	Candelabra, Post or Bullet Shape	Indoor & Outdoor
					

Unfortunately, the element that makes CFLs energy efficient is mercury. While the amount of mercury contained in a CFL is small (5 milligrams as compared to 500 milligrams in the older home thermometers) proper handling and disposal of both non-working, unbroken bulbs and bulbs that break is very important.

PROPER DISPOSAL of UNBROKEN COMPACT FLUORESCENTS

- 1. Check for a Warranty.** All ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent lamps have a warranty. Check the product packaging for more information.
- 2. Recycle.** Several companies offer recycle options for both compact fluorescent lamps and/or fluorescent tubes including easy to use pre-paid kits. Plymouth Township does not endorse any company and is only providing information for your use (see the box to the right).

Important: do not put fluorescent lamps in the orange curbside recycling container.

- 3. Bring to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection.** Plymouth Township and Wayne County host Household Hazardous Waste collections at no out-of-pocket cost to residents of Plymouth Township. Contact Wayne County at 734-326-3936 or Plymouth Township for more information.

DROP OFF, NO CHARGE:

Home Depot (CFLs only; no tube fluorescent)

47725 Five Mile Road
Plymouth, MI 48170
734-207-6147

PURCHASE RETURN KITS FROM:

Cleanlights Recycling, Inc

PO Box 212
Mason, MI 48854-0212
517-676-0044

Sylvania

1-800-LIGHTBULB
<http://www.sylvania.com>

LightBulbRecycling.com

3640 Walnut St.
Boulder, CO 80301
303-449-1876
www.lightbulbrecycling.com

For a list of companies who claim to recycle CFLs, go to:
<http://www.LampRecycle.org>





Light Emitting Diodes (LED's) are another choice in energy efficient lighting for your home. They aren't just for Christmas Lights anymore! New styles are being introduced each year. Just be certain they have been rated as energy efficient by ENERGY STAR.



US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING & DISPOSAL OF BROKEN COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMPS

1. **Open a window and leave the room.**

Restrict access for at least 15 minutes. If you have fans, place the fans in the windows and blow the air out of the room. Note: If the room has no windows, open all doors to the room and windows outside the room and use fans to move the air out of the room and to the open windows.

2. **Remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner.**

- Wear disposable rubber gloves, if available (do not use your bare hands).
- Carefully scoop up the fragments and powder with stiff paper cardboard.
- Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or disposable wet wipe.
- Sticky tape (such as duct tape) can be used to pick up small pieces and powder.

3. **Place all cleanup materials in a plastic bag and seal it, then place in a second sealed plastic bag.**

Contact the Solid Waste Department for disposal options.

4. **If the bulb is broken on a rug or carpet:**

- First, remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner, following the steps above. Sticky tape (such as duct tape) can be used to pick up small pieces and powder.
- If vacuuming is needed after all visible materials are removed, vacuum the area where the bulb was broken, remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister) and put the bag or vacuum debris in two (2) sealed plastic bags in the outdoor trash or protected outdoor location for normal disposal.

CFL ENERGY SAVINGS



According to ENERGY STAR (www.energystar.gov) if every home in America replaced one (1) incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) we would save enough energy to light three (3) million homes for a year resulting in the prevention of nine (9) billion pounds of greenhouse gas emission from escaping into the atmosphere.



EQUALS



A power plant will emit 10 Mg of mercury into the air to produce the electricity needed to run an incandescent bulb compared to only 2.4 Mg of mercury to run a CFL for the same amount of time.



EQUALS

