WHAT TO DO IF A CFL BREAKS

Before Cleanup

• Have people and pets leave the room.
• Air out the room for 5-10 minutes by opening a window or door to the outdoor environment.
• Shut off the central forced air heating/air-conditioning system, if you have one.

During Cleanup

• DO NOT VACUUM. Vacuuming is not recommended unless broken glass remains after all other cleanup steps have been taken since it could spread mercury-containing powder or vapor.
• Be thorough in collecting broken glass and visible powder. Scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard. Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder. Place the used tape in the glass jar or plastic bag.
• Place cleanup materials in a sealable container.

After Cleanup

• Promptly place all bulb debris and cleanup materials, including vacuum cleaner bags, outdoors in a trash container or protected area until materials can be properly disposed. Avoid leaving any bulb fragments or cleanup materials indoors.
• Continue to air out the room where the bulb was broken and leave forced air system off for several hours.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Help protect human health and the environment at a local level. Participate in local recycling and clean sweep programs.

Properly recycle at appropriate recycling facilities such as Menards & Harris Ace Hardware stores:

- CFLs
- Fluorescent tubes
- Other mercury containing items such as mercury thermometers and mercury thermostats

To find other places locally that recycle CFLs, visit earth911.com/recycling

DNR Hazardous Waste Contacts:

Kathy Warren 608-275-3289
Cynthia English 608-275-3240

CITY OF Beloit WISCONSIN

Water Resources Division

2400 Springbrook Ct.
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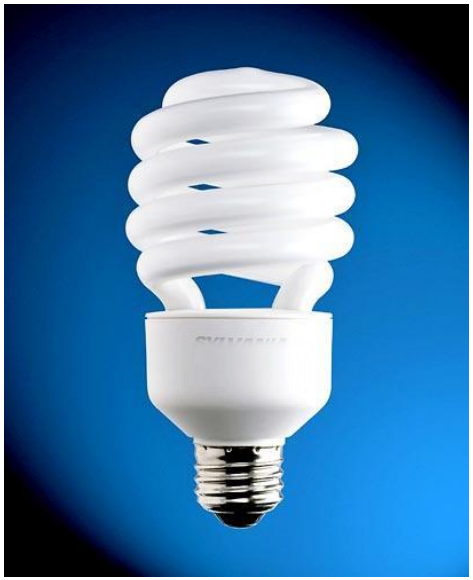
LIGHT BULB SAFETY AND MERCURY REDUCTION

Protecting the community's public health

City of Beloit
Public Works Department

Water Resources Division



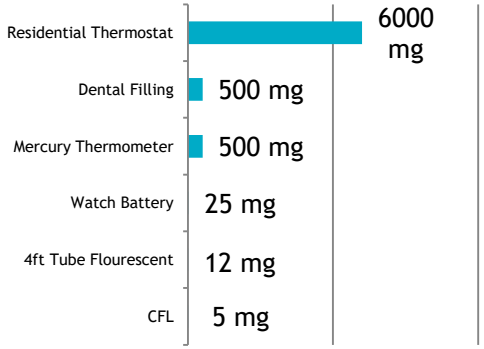
WHAT IS A CFL?

- A CFL, or Compact Fluorescent Lamp, is a relatively inexpensive bulb designed to replace incandescent bulbs.
- They typically use a tube which is curved to fit into the space of a regular incandescent.
- They come in many different shapes and sizes, and similar to old fashioned incandescent bulbs, come in a variety of wattages and styles.

Overall, they use 1/4 or less the electricity of an incandescent but last over 15 times longer. Although they have a higher initial cost, they are worth the investment as compared to incandescent bulbs.

WHAT IS IN A CFL?

- CFL's contain mercury, a metal that is a shiny, silver-white, odorless liquid at room temperature.
- A typical CFL contains five milligrams of mercury per bulb (enough to cover the tip of a ballpoint pen). To put that in perspective, an old fashioned mercury thermometer contains about **100 times** more mercury than a CFL!



Although this may seem like a small amount, one of our overall goals is to focus on reducing pollutants, such as mercury, that could eventually end up in our drinking water and in other bodies of water.

MERCURY IMPACTS

Proper recycling of mercury helps protect our health and waterways.

- Mercury is toxic to living organisms, especially in larger amounts.
- Exposure to high levels of can permanently damage the brain, kidneys, and developing fetus. Effects on brain functioning may result in irritability, shyness, tremors, changes in vision or hearing, and memory problems.
- A gram of mercury can contaminate a 20 acre lake.

If every person in Beloit changed out one incandescent for a CFL ***and also recycled the CFL properly,*** we could prevent the potential contamination of 47.3 square miles of water in Wisconsin!