

## FACT SHEET

### **Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) Program**

#### **Proper Disposal Methods**

Hazardous waste regulations designate a category of hazardous wastes called “universal waste.” This category includes many items such as compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and tubes, household batteries, CRT’s (cathode ray tubes) and items that contain mercury. Since these items are considered hazardous they cannot be discarded in the trash. Instead use one of the following options available for Irvine residents.

- **Take to a Hazardous Waste Collection Center**  
The County of Orange accepts fluorescent tubes and other household hazardous waste items at its Irvine Collection Center located at 6411 Oak Canyon. For more information visit [www.oilandfills.com](http://www.oilandfills.com).
- **Schedule a Special Pickup**  
As part of the new expanded residential programs, Irvine residents with curbside service are able to dispose of universal waste such as batteries and fluorescent tubes as part of the bulky item collection program.

#### **City of Irvine Collection Procedures**

Residents with curbside service must call Waste Management’s customer service center at (949) 642-1191 to schedule a pickup. Bulky items along with universal waste are part of a special service and collected separately from the automated cart program on certain days.

For collection of fluorescent tubes or bulbs, the resident must package the items to minimize breakage such as using the original box or some other protective sealed container. Please do not tape fluorescent tubes together.

The resident will place the packaged fluorescent tubes or bulbs out near the curb for pickup on the scheduled day.

A Waste Management representative will come by and pickup the fluorescent tubes or bulbs. The fluorescent tubes or bulbs will be recycled.

Multi-family residents – Package the fluorescent tubes or bulbs to minimize breakage by using the original box or some other protective sealed container and bring the item to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.

## Procedures for Storing and Transporting

- Package fluorescent bulbs and tubes carefully when storing and transporting them. Do not tape tubes together.
- Store and transport fluorescent bulbs and tubes in the original box or another protective container.
- Store them in an area away from rain so that if they break, the mercury from broken lamps or tubes will not be washed by rainwater into waterways.
- If you have a breakage, see the steps below for clean up.

## How to Clean Up Broken Lamps and Tubes

- Household or small quantity breakages, do not use a standard vacuum cleaner. Do not use ordinary residential and commercial floor vacuums, floor vacuums that trap dirt with water, or wet/dry shop vacuums. Only vacuums specially designed for hazardous waste can be used.
- Instead of vacuuming, wear latex gloves and carefully clean up the fragments. Wipe the area with a damp disposable paper towel to remove all glass fragments and associated mercury.
- Keep other people and pets away from area so that mercury-containing pieces and powder are not tracked into other areas.
- Keep the area well ventilated to disperse any vapor that may escape.
- After clean up is complete, place all fragments along with cleaning materials into a sturdy sealable plastic bag (e.g., a “zip-lock” type bag).
- Wash your hands.
- Recycle along with intact bulbs and tubes at the household hazardous waste collection center or using a bulky item pickup.

**Note: Guidelines for storing, transporting and cleanup of broken lamps are provided by the California Integrated Waste Management Board and the California Department of Toxic Substance Control.**