

Accumulation start date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Universal Waste Lamps



## Universal Waste Lamp Overview

Lamps that contain hazardous metals, such as mercury and lead, are hazardous waste. Pinellas County requires that all hazardous lamps be recycled or managed as hazardous waste. If recycled and managed in accordance with the practices outlined within this brochure, they are considered universal waste and do not count towards your facility's hazardous waste generator status.

All types of spent lamps containing any amount of mercury, or other toxic metals such as lead and arsenic, including those from households and commercial buildings, have been prohibited from solid waste incineration since July 1, 1994, **in any quantity**.

Universal waste lamps include:

- Fluorescent tubes, including 'green-tips'
- Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)
- Light emitting diode (LED) lamps
- High intensity discharge (HID) lamps
  - Mercury vapor lamps  
(e.g., street or high bay lighting)
  - High pressure sodium lamps  
(e.g., street or high bay lighting)
  - Metal halide lamps  
(e.g., flood, indoor grow or aquarium lights)
- Neon lamps



**Small Quantity Generator Program**  
(727) 464-7500

[www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste](http://www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste)

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## A GUIDE TO Managing Spent Lamps



**SMALL QUANTITY  
GENERATOR PROGRAM**



# Proper Management of Universal Waste Lamps

## Storage

- Used lamps must be stored in such a way that minimizes breakage and prevents releases to the environment.
- Used lamps must be stored in structurally sound **containers** that are kept **closed** without any signs of leakage, spillage or damage.
- Any **broken mercury-containing lamps** must be stored separately in a sealed container labeled “Broken Spent Mercury-Containing Lamps for Recycling.”

## Labeling

- Used lamp containers must be **clearly labeled** with one of the following options:
  - Spent Mercury-Containing Lamps for Recycling
  - Universal Waste
  - Universal Waste Mercury Lamps
  - Universal Waste—Lamp(s)
  - Used Lamp(s)
  - Used Mercury Lamps
  - Waste Lamp(s)
  - Waste Mercury Lamps



## Accumulation

- Used lamps may be accumulated on-site for no more than **one year** from the date that the first used lamp is generated.
- The **accumulation time** must be demonstrated either by:
  - Dating the container with the start date of accumulation;
  - Maintaining a generation log; or
  - Any other method which clearly demonstrates the length of time that the universal waste has been accumulated from the date it becomes a waste.

## Recycling

### CESQGs

- Used lamps can be recycled at either HEC3’s EnviroBusiness Days (*second Wednesday of each month*) or at Pinellas County Mobile Collection events. Ballasts are accepted also, but not the light fixture.

### SQGs & LQGs

- Used lamps can be recycled through a universal waste handler, a list of which can be found at [http://appprod.dep.state.fl.us/www\\_rcralreports/mercuryhandlers.asp](http://appprod.dep.state.fl.us/www_rcralreports/mercuryhandlers.asp).



## If you break a mercury-containing lamp...

### 1. Ventilate the room

- Open a window.
- Leave the room and restrict access for at least 30 minutes.
- If available, point a floor or pedestal fan at the open window.

### 2. Pick up all the materials you can

- Wear disposable gloves.
- Carefully scoop up the fragments and powder with stiff paper or cardboard. Sticky tape (e.g. *duct tape*) can be used to

pick up small pieces and powder.

- Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or disposable wet wipe.

### 3. Double bag and recycle

- Place the broken lamp and cleanup materials in doubled plastic bags then seal.
- **Wash your hands!**
- Take the materials to Pinellas County’s HEC3 or give to your universal waste or hazardous waste transporter. Do **NOT** dispose of in the trash.

This label is provided for your convenience to place on containers of universal waste lamps.