



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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TEHAMA COUNTY MAKES RECYCLING FLUORESCENT LIGHTS EASY!



Recycling compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) has a bright future in Tehama County thanks to you and the local seven retailers that are collecting them at no charge: Corning Disposal & Recycling, GreenWaste of Tehama, Los Molinos Ace Hardware, Home Depot, McCoy Hardware & Farm Supply, Hatfields Ace Hardware, and the Tehama County/Red Bluff Landfill.

Why is it important to recycle CFL's and any fluorescent tubes, you may ask? It is important because they contain small amounts of mercury that allow the light to be energy efficient. If fluorescent lights are broken, the mercury sealed within the glass tubing can escape to release a small amount of mercury. These small amounts can accumulate in the atmosphere. Mercury threatens public health, and contaminates drinking water and soil.

Due to this toxicity, the State of California has banned fluorescent lights from disposal in the trash. You see, when the fluorescent lights are placed in the trash, they inadvertently get crushed and broken by heavy equipment compacting the waste, exposing waste workers and the environment to mercury. By recycling them at their end-of-life you can save energy, help protect public health, and properly manage a household hazardous waste.

Unfortunately, only two percent of CFLs are recycled from households in the United States, so please help and do your part!

Fluorescent lights also come in the tube form. You commonly find fluorescent tubes being used for lighting in garages, kitchens, and in commercial businesses. If you have 4 or 8 foot long fluorescent tubes, properly recycle up to twenty at a time at five locations in the county: Tehama County/Red Bluff Landfill, Los Molinos Hardware, Hatfields Ace Hardware, McCoy Hardware and Farm Supply, and at the GreenWaste of Tehama office. Businesses must call 528-1103 first to make an appointment.

While fluorescent lights have energy saving benefits, throwing them in the trash can pose problems. Fluorescent bulbs are also expensive to process when disposed of improperly. Precautionary measures, for the safety of the waste industry worker, need to be taken when found in trash. This creates additional costs, which are eventually paid for by the public through their landfill fees and garbage rates.

An even newer technology that saves more energy, lasts longer, and has no mercury are Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). The life of a high-power white LED is projected to be 35,000 hours, compared to 750 hours for an incandescent bulb, and 8,000 hours for a compact fluorescent. An additional benefit is they generate almost no heat or UV rays, which can reduce air conditioning costs and protect fabrics from fading.

Be the bright light in your home, consider LEDs the next time you need new lighting. Please recycle fluorescent lamps at the friendly local retailers listed and thank them for doing so. For more information please call the Tehama County Sanitary Landfill Agency at 530.528.1103 or visit www.tehamacountylandfill.com