

Machine Shop Checklist #10: Universal Waste Fluorescent Lamps



Fluorescent lights and lamps often contain toxic chemicals that fall under the dangerous waste regulations. It's easier to manage them as a [universal waste](#).¹

Two disposal options

1. Switch to more energy-efficient LEDs

At end of life, LED lights are not dangerous waste.

2. Recycle your spent fluorescent lights as universal waste

- Put the spent lights in a box to prevent breakage.
 - Keep the box **closed**.
 - Label the box with "**Universal Waste Lamps**" and the **date you put the first lamp into the box**.
 - Send full boxes off with a vendor or recycler within one year of the date on the box.
- Put broken lights into a separate sealed container capable of containing the glass and debris. Don't put the broken lights and whole lights in the same box.
- If needed, ask Ecology for a vendor list.

Visit ecology.wa.gov/Lights-Lamps for more information.

Businesses that purchase bulbs at retail in Washington can recycle mercury-containing lights for free by dropping them off at [collection sites](#)² throughout the state.

Contact Information

Central Region: (509) 575-2490

Eastern Region: (509) 329-3400

Northwest Region: (206) 594-0000

Southwest Region: (360) 407-6300

Webpage: ecology.wa.gov/P2

Accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, email HWTRPubs@ecy.wa.gov, call (360) 407-6700, or dial 711 for relay services. Visit ecology.wa.gov/ADA for more information.

¹ ecology.wa.gov/universal-waste

² <https://www.lightrecycle.org/collection-site-locator/>