

## CFL Care and Disposal

By using Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs, you are reducing waste and energy consumption. CFLs use 75% less energy and last five to ten times longer than standard incandescent light bulbs. The use of CFLs requires different handling and disposal than incandescent bulbs. Following are some tips on responsible care and disposal of CFLs.

### CFLs and the Environment

CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, less than the amount contained in a watch battery. Using CFLs leads to a net reduction of mercury in the environment due to their lower energy use and the fact that much of the electricity produced in the U.S. comes from coal, a leading contributor to mercury released in the environment. To learn more about CFLs and mercury, visit the ENERGY STAR website at

[http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/promotions/change\\_light/downloads/Fact\\_Sheet\\_Mercury.pdf](http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/promotions/change_light/downloads/Fact_Sheet_Mercury.pdf)



### How to dispose of CFLs

Do not place CFLs in the trash where they become landfill or in recycling bins where they may break and contaminate other recyclable items. Many cities, utility companies and large retail stores offer free CFL collection. To find a local collection site in your neighborhood visit

**Earth911:** <http://www.earth911.org>

### If a CFL breaks

1. Before cleaning up the CFL, open windows and doors to air out the room for about 15 minutes.
2. Wear gloves, and do not use a vacuum.
3. Sweep up fragments with a disposal brush.
4. Use a moist paper towel to help pick up remaining fragments.
5. Wrap in layers of newspaper and place in a sealable bag or container along with anything used to clean up.
6. Take to a disposal site.