

Department of Environmental Health and Safety

Fluorescent Light Tube Disposal Procedures



All fluorescent light tubes contain mercury and should be handled carefully to avoid breakage. All staff generating waste fluorescent light tubes need to manage them properly according to the universal waste laws.

Light tubes should be placed in their original boxes for disposal. Remove all packing materials from box prior to placing any spent tubes into the box. If original boxes are not available, new boxes shall be purchased from a disposal company, or obtained from EHS.

When you begin to fill the waste light tube box with spent light tubes, label the box with a Universal Waste label that is completely filled out. These labels can be obtained from EHS, or can be found in the light tube storage area (located in the Facilities Management Yard).

Waste light tube boxes containing light tubes must be sealed and labeled at all times, except for when adding or removing tubes. Seal the end of the container with packing tape, or duct tape.

Fluorescent light tubes can be accumulated on campus for no more than one year, therefore make arrangements for your waste light tubes to be moved out of your area no later than 9 months after the accumulation start date on the label.

Arrange for transportation of the sealed container to the light tube storage area located in the Facilities Management Yard.

Containers should be stacked on their side, no more than 4 boxes high. This will avoid crushing the tubes in the bottom box.