

Managing used fluorescent lamps

A guide to keeping Reed safe and compliant

According to the EPA, used fluorescent lamps can be considered **Hazardous Waste** or Universal Waste.

Reed counts used lamps as Universal Waste.

Why universal waste?

Universal Waste is cheaper and easier to manage.

If Reed considered lamps to be **Hazardous Waste**, we'd have to

- Pay hazardous waste fees
- File extra reports
- Complete additional training and planning requirements
- Harm the environment!

Lamps marked as **Hazardous Waste** can be crushed once they are sent to a waste disposal plant, which releases mercury vapor. This is **harmful to workers and the environment**. The components are not recycled or reclaimed.

The government prohibits crushing of lamps marked as **Universal Waste**. They do not count towards Reed's generation of hazardous waste. The lamps can be recycled and the mercury can be reclaimed.

What can we do to prevent lamps from being Hazardous Waste?

- Place used lamps in **closed** containers such as cardboard boxes or fiber drums.
- Make sure the lamps **fit inside the box**.
- **Mark the date** when the first lamp is added.
- **Label the box** "Used lamps," "Waste lamps," or "Universal Waste - Lamps".
- Store broken lamps in a closed, structurally sound container to prevent the release of mercury.

Otherwise our lamps will be **Hazardous Waste**.



What are the dangers of mercury?



Mercury is toxic and may be fatal if inhaled. It damages the reproductive system and kidneys. It's also toxic to fish and other organisms. Signs of exposure include tremors; changes in behavior; and skin irritation.



Sources: www.osha.gov
www.deq.state.or.us
www.sigmaaldrich.com

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