

KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE WHEN A CFL BREAKS.

Like all fluorescent lamps, CFL bulbs contain mercury—an average of 5 milligrams per bulb. By comparison, some watch batteries contain 25 milligrams of mercury, and many thermostats contain up to 3,000 milligrams of mercury.

Need replacement bulbs?

FOCUS ON ENERGY® offers instant discounts and expert advice on ENERGY STAR® certified LEDs. They use 90% less energy and can last up to 15 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

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Although there is only a small amount of mercury in CFLs, it is best for the environment and for the health and safety of yourself and others to properly clean up and dispose of broken CFLs. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends these steps for staying safe when a CFL breaks:

1. Have people and pets leave the room.
2. Shut off your central heating and air conditioning system and open nearby windows for 5–10 minutes to let out any vapor.
3. Carefully sweep up the glass fragments using stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a lidded jar or sealed plastic bag. Do not use a vacuum or broom to pick up large fragments.
4. Use an adhesive, like duct tape, to pick up any remaining small pieces and powder. Wipe the area with damp paper towels and place the towels in a sealed container.
5. If vacuuming is needed after visible materials are removed, vacuum the area where the bulb was broken. Put the debris in a sealed container.
6. Promptly place all bulb debris and cleanup materials outdoors until the materials can be disposed of properly.
7. Continue to air out the room where the bulb broke for several hours, leaving the heating and air conditioning system off.

Note: Before you dispose of a broken CFL, check with your local recycling program to see if there are restrictions on bulb disposal. Some municipalities require that fluorescent bulbs (broken or unbroken) be taken to a local recycling center. If that's not required in your area, you can dispose of the materials with your household trash.

REDUCING ENERGY WASTE ACROSS WISCONSIN

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