

”Hunt For Mercury At Home” Activity Information Sheet



<b>Product</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>What To Do</b>	<b>Mercury-Free Alternative</b>
Glass Mercury Fever/ Laboratory, Other Glass Mercury Thermometers	Silver liquid in glass tubes/bulbs (often ≥500mg mercury)	Significant mer. – take to BRHD or household haz waste (HHW) facility	Alcohol, digital and other non-mercury fever/lab thermometers
Older Thermostats, Other Mercury Motion Switches/Relays	Uses mercury to activate switch/relay - often ≥3,000mg mer.	Significant mercury, important to recycle at nearest HHW facility	Electronic "set back" models (can also help save on energy bills)
Older Fluorescent Lights - Especially Pre-1988 Lights & Wider (T12) Fluorescent Light Tubes	Pre-1988 T12 tubes 45-48mg, 1988-2000 T12's 11-44mg, post- 2000 T12's 8-10 mg.	Continue to use - do not break light tubes – recycle at nearest HHW facility when possible	Newer (post-2000) fluorescent lights and thinner (T8) lights use much less mercury
Newer and Thinner (T8) Fluorescent Lights and Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)	New thinner (T8) tubes 3-5mg mercury, swirl-shaped (& other) CFLs 3-5mg mercury	Continue to use - do not break light tubes – recycle at nearest HHW facility when possible	None, some producers use less mercury than others (check labeling, other technical data)
Mercuric Oxide and Older Alkaline Batteries	Pre-1990 alkaline bat. (see expiration date)	Recycle at nearest HHW facility when possible	Newer non-mercury rechargeable batteries
Mercurochrome & Merbromin Antiseptics	Old topical antiseptics containing mercury	Bring to nearest HHW facility when possible	Newer antiseptics do not contain mercury.
Thimerosal (older nasal sprays/contact lens sol.)	Mercury preservative in older n. s./c. l. sol.	Bring to nearest HHW facility when possible	New sprays/solutions don't have mercury
Sphygmometers, Mer. Manometers, Mercury Barometers, Other Dev.	Blood pressure mer. devices and other mercury action gauges	Continue to use, or recycle at nearest HHW facility – significant mer.	Mercury-free blood pressure devices and non-mercury gauges
Shoes With Mercury that Light Up or Make Noise	Mostly manufactured 1991 through 1994	Bring to nearest HHW facility when possible	Newer light-up shoes or s. that don't light-up
Mercury Jewelry/Vintage Toys Using Mercury	In glass ampoules and Mercury Maze game	Bring to nearest HHW facility – significant mer.	Choose mercury-free jewelry and toys
Older Chemistry Sets, Medicines, Pesticides	May contain mercury and mer. compounds	Bring to nearest HHW facility – significant mer.	Mercury-free chem. sets/meds/pesticides
Weights/Counterweights	Grandfather clocks	Sig. mer. – nearest HHW	Non-mercury weights

“Hunt For Mercury At Home” Activity – Inventory/Actions Sheet

Items Found	How is item a threat? (check box)			Actions that were taken, or will be taken
	<u>Immediate Threat</u> (e.g. unsealed mercury)	<u>Potential Threat</u> (e.g. thermometer might break)	<u>Environmental Threat</u> (e.g. mercury in pesticides)	
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## **National Information on Mercury Reduction/Recycling**

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### **EPA Information on Mercury and Recycling Products Containing Mercury**

Mercury Home Page

<http://www.epa.gov/mercury/index.htm>

Mercury in Your State

<http://www.epa.gov/mercury/whereyoulive.htm#State>

### **ENERGY STAR® Information on “Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs & Mercury”**

#### **ENERGY STAR® Fact Sheet**

[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)

### **National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)**

Press Research from NEMA

<http://www.nema.org/media/pr/20070313a.cfm>

### **Interstate Mercury Education & Reduction Clearinghouse (IMERC)**

<http://www.newmoa.org/prevention/mercury/imerc.cfm>

<http://www.newmoa.org/publications/#mercury>

Current Information

<http://www.newmoa.org/prevention/mercury/imerc/alert/issue6-may2006.pdf>

### **National Public Radio**

CFL Bulbs Have One Hitch: Toxic Mercury

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=7431198>

## **State of Utah Information on Mercury Reduction/Recycling**

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Utah Department of Environmental Quality

[http://www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/Mercury/get\\_the\\_mercury\\_out.htm](http://www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/Mercury/get_the_mercury_out.htm)

[http://www.deq.utah.gov/Pollution\\_Prevention/index.htm](http://www.deq.utah.gov/Pollution_Prevention/index.htm)

Recycling handled by county.

[http://health.utah.gov/lhd/html/local\\_health\\_departments.htm](http://health.utah.gov/lhd/html/local_health_departments.htm)

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