



## Fluorescent Light Safe Disposal



Warning: Fluorescent lights contain a small amount of mercury, a toxic metal, and must be handled very carefully. Do not put used or broken fluorescent lights in the trash. They must be recycled.

**Burns out?** Store used fluorescent lights in a sealed, dated container labeled "Used Fluorescent Lights." Cushion the lights with paper so they don't break. Bulbs and tubes may be accumulated for up to 1 year. The sealed container can be delivered to the Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Storage Facility across from Surplus Property or picked up via the online chemical pickup request system at [https://itsapps.unc.edu/HazMat\\_Pickup/](https://itsapps.unc.edu/HazMat_Pickup/).

**Breaks?** Clear and ventilate the room for at least 15 minutes. Open windows; do not run the air conditioner. On campus, contact Housekeeping immediately if you break a bulb. Housekeeping has special tools and practices to minimize exposure. If you are not on campus, scoop up glass fragments and powder with paper and put everything in a sealed container. Use sticky tape to pick up remaining powder, and put the tape in the sealed container. Wipe the area with damp paper towels (hard surfaces) or vacuum the area (carpeted surfaces). Put the paper towel or vacuum bag in the sealed container and deliver to EHS.



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