

## Mercury-containing Lightbulbs Banned from Sale in Vermont

Screw-based Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFL)  
and Four Foot (4') General-Purpose Linear Fluorescent Tubes

### ➤ When will the ban on selling these lightbulbs in Vermont start?

#### **Screw based - Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs)**

Banned from sale starting **February 17, 2023**

#### **General-purpose – Four Foot (4') Linear Fluorescent Tubes**

Banned from sale starting **January 1, 2024**



### ➤ Why are these lightbulbs banned from sale?

Energy-efficient alternatives to mercury-containing lightbulbs are widely available. Mercury is a highly toxic heavy metal that is released into the environment when these lightbulbs are broken or discarded. Although bulbs contain a relatively small amount of mercury, Vermonters use so many of these bulbs each year that they contribute to mercury contamination, particularly in fish and wildlife. State and federal fish advisories restrict consumption of certain freshwater and marine fish (see: [mercv.org](http://mercv.org) and click on “[mercury in fish](#)”).

### ➤ What are my options if I am unable to purchase these bulbs?

- Screw-based LED bulbs are comparably priced and more energy-efficient than CFLs.
- Three major options are available for linear tube replacement:
  - 1) Replace with tubular LED bulbs (TLED) replacement bulbs.
  - 2) Replace the bulbs and other components with an LED retrofit kit.
  - 3) Replace the luminaire (fixture).

**Note:** Efficiency Vermont is currently offering a variety of rebates on LEDs to replace them. To learn more about Efficiency Vermont's lighting offers, visit: [www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates](http://www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates)

### ➤ What are the options for recycling mercury-containing and fluorescent bulbs?

- Many locations across Vermont collect and recycle fluorescent bulbs for FREE. Free collection sites take unlimited amounts of all types of CFL bulbs and a limit of 10 bulbs per visit of all other general-purpose fluorescent and mercury-containing bulbs. Find your nearest collection locations at [VTrecycles.com](http://VTrecycles.com), click on the orange [Special Recycling](#) icon, and select your county from the dropdown.
- For larger volumes of mercury-containing fluorescent bulb recycling:
  - Contact your local solid waste district or municipality at [802recycles.com](http://802recycles.com).
  - Some electrical wholesale suppliers accept bulbs from their customers for recycling.
  - Businesses that already use a permitted hazardous waste transporter to pick up hazardous wastes may be able to ship spent bulbs using that same transporter.

### ➤ How do I know if a lightbulb contains mercury?



Vermont law requires labeling of mercury-containing bulbs using words or symbols that state the product contains mercury and that it cannot be placed in the regular trash. A common symbol found on a mercury lightbulb is Hg in a circle which is the symbol for mercury.

*For more information, contact:*

**Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation – Mercury Education & Reduction Program**  
[www.mercvt.org](http://www.mercvt.org) or (802) 522-5736