



What Do I Do With a Broken CFL?

Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) have become very popular as a way to save money and energy while reducing waste. What many people don't know is that they contain mercury, which can cause serious health problems if a person is exposed. If a CFL breaks, you should do the following:

- Open a door or window and air out the room for 5-10 minutes.
- Shut off the HVAC system.
- While the room is airing out, gather the materials needed for cleanup:
 - Stiff paper or cardboard;
 - Sticky tape;
 - Damp paper towels or disposable wipes; and
 - A puncture-resistant container (glass, plastic or metal).
- **DO NOT VACUUM** – this could spread mercury-containing powder or vapor.
- Collect all broken glass and visible powder and place in the container.
- Label the container with the following information:

HAZARDOUS WASTE

BROKEN BULB – CONTAINS MERCURY

TOXIC

- Contact EHS (505-277-2753) for pickup.
- If possible, leave the HVAC system off and continue airing out the room for several hours.

Contact EHS at (505) 277-2753 for assistance.