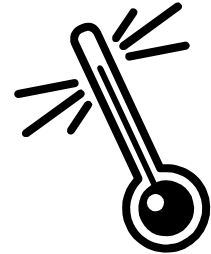


NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR DISPOSING OF MERCURY-ADDED PRODUCTS

Homeowners, This Includes You!

As of January 1, 2008, the disposal of mercury-containing products at landfills, transfer stations and incinerators is prohibited. This means these items may not be disposed of as a solid waste with the "normal" garbage. This ban covers products including:

- ◆ Thermometers
- ◆ Fluorescent lamps
- ◆ Thermostats
- ◆ Mercury button cell batteries
- ◆ Switches and relays



Homeowners and businesses alike are subject to this ban. However, the ban does not include the recycling of these items at solid waste facilities and we encourage consumers to bring them to their local facility for recycling along with their other recyclables. Legal disposal options include:

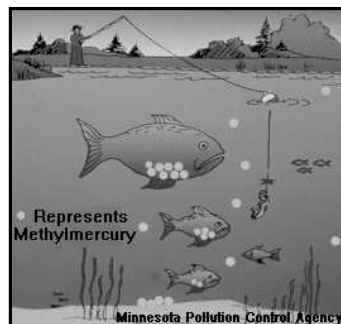
- ◆ Collection and Recycling at Municipal Facilities
- ◆ Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events
- ◆ TrueValue and Ace Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Stores
- ◆ Municipal and Commercial Thermostat Recycling Locations

Sixty-three towns currently accept fluorescent lamps and of those, 29 also accept and recycle other mercury-containing products.

MERCURY: WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Mercury is a toxic chemical that accumulates in our bodies and never breaks down into non-toxic forms. Mercury can damage several parts of the body, including the liver, kidneys and especially the brain, where it may cause neurological disorders. It should not be released into the environment. Some common sources of mercury are:

- ◆ Power Plants that burn coal, releasing mercury air;
- ◆ Dentists that discharge mercury-amalgam down and
- ◆ Households that discard fluorescent lamps, thermostats, etc. in the garbage.



into the

the drain;

Once mercury is released into the air, water or ground, the environment and is absorbed by plants and bioaccumulates, that is, small amounts build up in the environment over time, and easily moves up the food chain as larger animals eat smaller animals. Mercury bioaccumulates in fish, which is the main way people ingest it.

it moves through animals.

Mercury

bioaccumulates in fish, which is the

main way people ingest it.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Common Mercury-added Products: <http://www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/Mercury/HgProducts.asp>

HHW schedule: <http://www.des.nh.gov/HHW/>

True Value: www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/Mercury/default.asp?link=lamp

Thermostat Recycling Program: <http://www.des.nh.gov/nhppp/trc.htm>

For more information, contact Paul Lockwood at: 603-271-2956 or paul.lockwood@des.nh.gov.