

Universal Waste Awareness Information

What is universal waste?

Universal wastes meet the definition of a hazardous waste but are very common and can be easily recycled. Universal waste includes: light bulbs (lamps), batteries, and electrical ballasts.

Types of batteries collected as Universal Waste include: Lead-Acid, Nickel-Cadmium, Lithium & Lithium Ion, Mercury (mercuric oxide or mercury cell), Nickel-Metal Hydride, Alkaline, and any other rechargeable battery. Batteries should be inventoried on a Hazardous Materials Pickup Request Form, which is sent to EHS. Contact the Warehouse directly to collect electrical ballasts.

Light Bulbs (Lamps)

Bulbs regulated as universal waste include: Fluorescent, Compact fluorescent, High-Intensity Discharge, Ultraviolet, LED, and Flood Lamps. Incandescent light bulbs are not considered universal waste and can legally be discarded in the trash.

Purdue Fort Wayne Bulb Policy

Training is mandatory for all personnel that handle used fluorescent bulbs. Bulbs should be handled as outlined below. This is particularly important for fluorescent bulbs. Bulbs are to be collected/staged in **ONE** designated area in each building. Both new and used bulbs must be properly stored in containers that are:

- Sturdy enough to prevent breakage
- Closed securely between uses - Secured in a way that prevents tipping or spilling

All used bulb containers must be labeled with the words "Universal Waste Bulbs."

Warehouse Operations personnel will collect bulbs for proper recycling.

Proper Handling of bulbs:

1. Carefully remove bulb from light fixture.
2. Place bulb into fiberboard box provided for this purpose, boxing like bulbs together.
3. Always store and transport bulbs in a closed container.
4. **Used bulb containers must have a Universal Waste label identifying the contents.**
5. Follow EHS guidelines for pickup and transport of used bulbs.

Emergency Procedures – Broken Fluorescent bulbs must be managed as hazardous waste.

Fluorescent bulbs are never to be intentionally broken. Broken bulbs must be cleaned up immediately. All debris must be properly collected, packaged, and disposed of as outlined.

1. Contact your supervisor as soon as possible before starting cleanup or immediately after.
2. Don proper personal protective equipment (disposable gloves, protective eyewear).
3. Using an appropriate technique to minimize dust generation, collect all glass, metal, and phosphor (white dust) debris into a rigid container.
4. Seal the container and label with the words "Broken Fluorescent Bulb."
5. Complete a Hazardous Waste Pickup Request form for proper disposal.

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

Call Environmental Health & Safety at 481-4193.

Employee name (please print)

Training date

Employee signature

Department

Supervisor's Name

Training given by