

## **Energy saving lamps - MANAGEMENT OF LAMP DEBRIS**

Breaking an energy saving fluorescent lamp is extremely unlikely to have any impact on your health. Proper cleanup and adequate ventilation minimize the impact even further. If a lamp breaks, switch off the electricity and ventilate the room for 20-30 minutes. Broken lamps should be removed, preferably with protective gloves and be placed in a sealed plastic bag. Avoid using the vacuum cleaner to remove the broken parts.

How to discard a failed or broken energy saving lamp as trash depends on the local legislation of the country where you live.

### **FURTHER DETAILS:**

#### **Before Clean-up: Air Out the Room**

1. Have people and pets leave the room, and don't let anyone walk through the breakage area on their way out.
2. Open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes or more.
3. Shut off the central forced-air heating/air conditioning system, if you have one.

#### **Clean-Up Steps for Hard Surfaces**

1. Carefully scoop up glass pieces and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a glass jar with metal lid (such as a canning jar) or in a sealed plastic bag.
2. Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder.
3. Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes. Place towels in the glass jar or plastic bag.
4. Do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up the broken bulb on hard surfaces.

#### **Clean-up Steps for Carpeting or Rug**

1. Carefully pick up glass fragments and place them in a glass jar with metal lid (such as a canning jar) or in a sealed plastic bag.
2. Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder.
3. If vacuuming is needed after all visible materials are removed, vacuum the area where the bulb was broken.
4. Remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister), and put the bag or vacuum debris in a sealed plastic bag.

#### **Clean-up Steps for Clothing, Bedding and Other Soft Materials**

1. If clothing or bedding materials come in direct contact with broken glass or mercury-containing powder from inside the bulb that may stick to the fabric, the clothing or

bedding should be thrown away. Do not wash such clothing or bedding because mercury fragments in the clothing may contaminate the machine and/or pollute sewage.

2. You can, however, wash clothing or other materials that have been exposed to the mercury vapor from a broken CFL, such as the clothing you are wearing when you cleaned up the broken CFL, as long as that clothing has not come into direct contact with the materials from the broken bulb.
3. If shoes come into direct contact with broken glass or mercury-containing powder from the bulb, wipe them off with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes. Place the towels or wipes in a glass jar or plastic bag for disposal.

### **Disposal of Clean-up Materials and of broken lamp parts**

1. Immediately place all clean-up materials outdoors in a trash container or protected area for the next trash pickup.
2. Wash your hands after disposing of the jars or plastic bags containing clean-up materials.
3. Check with your local or state government about disposal requirements in your specific area. Some states do not allow such trash disposal. Instead, they require that broken and unbroken mercury-containing bulbs be taken to a local recycling center. In the European Union, the recycling of electronic CFLs is submitted to the 2002/96 Directive (WEEE): all the lamps addressed to that market show the “crossed-out wheeled bin” symbol, which means that the failed lamp and/or its eventual debris cannot be trashed in the normal trash bin but they are submitted to special recycling phases: bring the broken or failed lamp to any shop or wholesaler of electric material.



### **Future Cleaning of Carpeting or Rug: Air Out the Room During and After Vacuuming**

1. The next several times you vacuum, shut off the central forced-air heating/air conditioning system and open a window before vacuuming.
2. Keep the central heating/air conditioning system shut off and the window open for at least 15 minutes after vacuuming is completed.