

Fluorescent Tube Disposal Instructions



Handling - Don't Break Them.

There is no special trick to handling tubes, just be careful not to break them. Broken tubes cannot be recycled and must be disposed of as hazardous waste. Tubes store best when they are snugly packed together in boxes, just like they come from the store. Don't tape tubes together in bundles, the tube recycling companies hate that.

Storing

Spent tubes should be stored together in the boxes or other packaging they came in. Special tube disposal boxes can be purchased on-line or from Grainger and other industrial supply firms.

Tubes from Your House or Garage

Up to 10 tubes from a household can be delivered to the Yuba Sutter Household Hazardous Waste Facility every Saturday from 8 am to 4 pm. There is no charge for tubes from a household. Broken tubes should be placed in a heavy duty clear plastic bag (like a zip lock bag) and taped (or zipped) closed. Sweep up the little broken fragments and put them in the same bag.

Tubes from Your Business, School, or Non-profit Group

Spent light tubes from businesses, schools, or non-profit groups located in Yuba or Sutter Counties can be accepted through our Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator program. **You must make an appointment in advance to deliver tubes – we cannot accept them during the hours we are open for households.** Light tubes need to be packaged as described below. There is a charge of \$0.06 per linear foot. Other charges will apply for non-linear fluorescent lamps (compact fluorescents, metal halide, halogen, etc). You will receive a receipt demonstrating that your organization disposed of the lamps properly. We can bill your YSDI account or you can pay at the time of delivery. Please call 530-749-4217 to make an appointment.

Label every box of waste tubes with the words: **"UNIVERSAL WASTE - LAMPS"** and the date that the first waste tube was put in the box. (This date is known in hazardous waste lingo as the "accumulation start date") The date is required because California regulations require that spent tubes be stored for no longer than one year from the date that the first waste tube is generated. The labeling on a box of spent fluorescent tubes should look like this:

UNIVERSAL WASTE - LAMPS

Accumulation Start Date: **Month, Day, 2007**

Your Company Name

Address

Phone Number

Number of Tubes Inside

Note: If for whatever reason spent tubes are stored outside of boxes then the same labeling information must be written with a marker on each individual tube. We cannot accept more than 10 tubes unless they are boxed.

Transporting Spent Tubes

The requirements for transporting spent tubes are pretty simple.

1. Tubes may be transported by the generator, or by any common carrier
2. Tubes must be transported on a standard Bill of Lading. Mark the ship to address:
Yuba Sutter Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 134 Burns Dr, Yuba City 95991.
3. Tubes from a household do not need to be transported on a bill of lading.

Other Disposal Options

Several companies sell mail-in fluorescent tube packages. You purchase the packaging on-line, they send you the correct packaging materials with a pre-paid mailing label, and after they receive your light tubes, they send a certificate of recycling for your records. Try these websites or call 530-749-4217 for more information.

- www.Nomerc.net
- www.onyxpak.com
- Onyxpaks are also available through Grainger – www.grainger.com, search on “fluorescent”
- www.earthpro.com (follow the link to EPSI PAKS)
- www.william-thomasgroup.com (search for “MercPak”)

The State of California is promoting “Take It Back” partnerships with retail outlets which sell fluorescent tubes. Check their website at www.zerowaste.ca.gov for current partners or ask if you can return spent tubes when you purchase new ones.

If you regularly generate more than 3 boxes (approx 100 tubes) once a quarter, please contact YSDI’s Environmental Compliance Department at 530-749-4207 for additional options.