

Environmental Health and Safety

Universal Waste Lamps

A variety of lamps can contain hazardous materials, mainly toxic metals, mercury and lead, and must be managed as a regulated waste. Included in this category are fluorescent, compact fluorescent, UV, high intensity discharge, neon, mercury vapor, high pressure sodium, and metal halide lamps.

Lamps fall into two categories – traditional, and the newer “environmentally friendly” lamps, some of which may be identified by their green markings.

Environmentally friendly or TCLP compliant lamps - these lamps are manufactured to not meet the definition of a hazardous waste. Lamps listed below may be managed as non-hazardous and can be disposed of in the normal trash:



Manufacturer	Designation
General Electric	Ecolux® or ECO
Philips	Alto and Alto II™
Sylvania (Osram)	Ecologic or ECO

Only the lamps listed above may be managed as non-hazardous. If you have a lamp that you believe is environmentally friendly but is not listed above, please contact the EH&S, 208-885-6524, for verification.

Lamp Collection

Environmentally friendly or TCLP compliant lamps:

- place the used lamp(s) in a box or other container, separating by type,
- label the container with the words “Lamps – Normal Trash,”
- contact the appropriate custodial service for collection.

Traditional Lamp Collection:

- Place them in an EHS supplied container that can be closed, separating by type;
- Dating the container with the date that the first lamp was placed in the container;
- Label the container with the words “Universal Waste - Lamps”, and
- Always keep the container closed except when adding lamps.
- EHS will automatically collect and replace the containers every six months. Contact EHS to make arrangements.

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Managing broken lamps

Environmentally friendly or TCLP compliant lamps: scoop up or sweep up glass fragments and powder and dispose of as you would any broken glass.

Traditional Lamps: Follow these procedures if only one fluorescent lamp is broken:

- Using gloves, carefully pick up or scoop up the glass fragments and powder with a stiff piece of paper or cardboard,
- Pick up glass fragments or powder using sticky tape
- For hard surfaces, wipe the area clean with a wet paper towel
- Place all items in a heavy duty plastic bag
- Submit to EHS for disposal.

For all other broken lamp situations, leave and secure the area, and contact EHS at 208-885-6524.

