

## MANAGEMENT OF COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHTS IN RESIDENCE HALLS OR GRADUATE/FAMILY HOUSING FACT SHEET 101509A

Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL's) use nearly 70% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. For this reason their use is growing every day. There are no known health hazards from exposure to CFL's that remain intact. While each bulb contains a very small amount of mercury (less than 5 mg which is roughly equivalent to the tip of a ball-point pen) research has also shown that no adverse effects are expected from occasional exposure to broken CFL's. However, as a matter of good practice and to minimize any risks the University has developed some basic guidelines for the management of CFL's during their various stages of use.



### Recycling of Burned Out but Intact CFL's

CFL's that have been burned out but otherwise are intact should be managed for recycling.



- Students living in residence halls should obtain a sealable plastic bag from the residence hall front desk assistant.
- Students living in apartment complexes, Greek houses and specialty housing should obtain a sealable plastic bag from the Resident Director or use a sealable sandwich bag.
- The burned out bulb should be placed into the bag, the bag sealed and the package given to the Residence Life or Graduate/Family staff.
- The staff will carefully place the bulb into the collection container which will be located at the front desk in residence halls and in the Cooperstown and Greg Page offices for apartment complexes.
- The Residence Hall Director or Office Manager will contact the appropriate Maintenance Supervisor when the container is full and the Maintenance Supervisor will contact the Environmental Quality Management Center (EQMC) located at 355 Cooper Drive to ensure the container is delivered to the EQMC.
- All other University staff and faculty should ensure delivery of burned out CFL's to the EQMC.

### Clean up of Broken or Damaged CFL's

If a student breaks a CFL in a Residence Hall or in Graduate/Family Housing, the student should:



1. Remove all persons from the room, taking care not to walk through any broken glass or pieces from the bulb.
2. Close the door to the room.
3. As soon as possible notify the University's Auxiliary Services "FIXIT" Emergency number at **323-4948** of the broken bulb.
4. Remain out of the room until clean-up has been completed.

The clean-up of broken CFL bulbs will be completed by University Maintenance personnel by taking the following steps:

#### All Surfaces

- Wear rubber gloves during the clean-up.
- Carefully pick up any large pieces of the broken bulb and place them in a sealable plastic bag.
- After all large pieces are picked up, carefully scoop up any pieces using a piece of stiff cardboard or other similar material and place these pieces in the sealable plastic bag (do not vacuum or sweep the area).
- Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pat the affected area to pick up smaller pieces and place these pieces into the bag.
- Finally, carefully wipe the affected area with a damp paper towel, place it in the bag and dispose of the bag in the regular trash.

#### Carpet

- If the broken bulb was on carpet, after completing all the above steps, the carpet may be vacuumed. The bag from the vacuum should be removed and placed in a sealable plastic bag, or the canister wiped with a damp paper towel and the towel placed in the sealable plastic bag and dispose of the bag in the regular trash.

#### Clothing or Bedding

- If the pieces of the broken bulb have come into direct contact with clothing or bedding, the affected articles should be thrown away by first placing them in a sealable plastic bag and dispose in the regular trash.

Contact the Environmental Management Department at 323-6280 or [ron.taylor@uky.edu](mailto:ron.taylor@uky.edu) for further information.