

UNIVERSAL WASTE

Many common products that we use in our daily lives contain potentially hazardous ingredients and require special care when disposed. Batteries, light bulbs, electronic devices, used aerosol cans and items containing mercury, are known as **Universal Waste**. It is illegal to dispose of universal waste in the garbage, down storm drains, or onto the ground. That's because chemicals from Universal Waste can eventually find their way into the environment, contaminating our air, our water and even the food we eat. Universal waste must be disposed of legally or recycled to avoid health and environmental risks.



IT'S THE LAW !

Fluorescent Lamps and Tubes

Includes fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent lamps, metal halide lamps, and sodium vapor lamps.

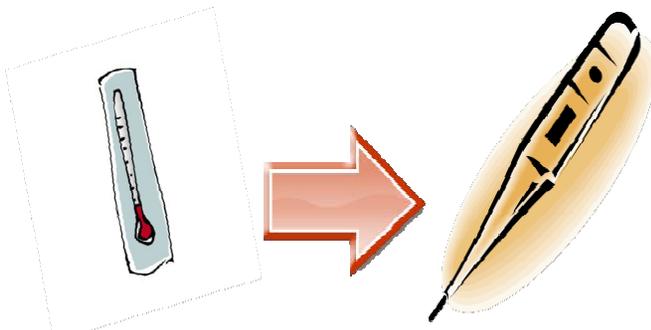


Batteries

Includes all batteries, AAA, AA, C, D, button cell, 9-volt and others, both rechargeable and single use, and also lead-acid batteries used in autos.

Mercury Gauges

Some gauges, such as thermometers, barometers, manometers, blood pressure and vacuum gauges contain mercury. Many cities, medical clinics / offices, and pharmacies have thermometer exchange programs that will give you a new mercury-free fever thermometer in exchange for your old one.



Thermostats That Contain Mercury

There is a mercury capsule inside the sealed glass "tilt switch" of the old style thermostats (not the newer electronic thermostats).

Pilot Light Sensors

Mercury-containing switches are found in some gas appliances such as stoves, ovens, clothes dryers, water heaters, furnaces and space heaters.

Electrical Switches and Relays

Electrical switches and relays typically contain about 3.5 grams of mercury each. Mercury switches can be found in some chest freezers, pre-1972 washing machines, sump pumps, electric space heaters, clothes irons, silent light switches, automobile hood and trunk lights, and ABS brakes.

Mercury-Added Novelties

Examples include greeting cards that play music when opened; athletic shoes (made before 1997) with flashing lights in soles; and mercury maze games.

"E" WASTE (Electronic Waste)

Unwanted computers, televisions, printers, and other electronics may contain lead, copper, and other heavy metals, or toxic substances that are harmful to the environment. It is illegal to put televisions and computer monitors in the landfill. Television monitors are currently considered hazardous waste when they have lived their life and when they are ready for recycling or disposal. This applies to cathode ray tube (CRT), liquid diode (LCD), and plasma monitors as well. Other electronic devices include printers, VCRs, cell phones, telephones, radios, and microwave ovens.



Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Events

San Mateo County Residents may drop off a full range of HHW at Collection Events. These collections are held virtually every week, throughout the County. This service is free-of-charge for residential wastes and is by appointment only. You must bring your HHW to the collection center. There is no home pick-up. Appointments are required to minimize your wait time in the drop-off line. For current appointment options go to, <http://events.smhealth.org/events/> or call (650) 363-4718 and choose option 3.

Very Small Quantity Generator Program (VSQG)

This is a drop off program by appointment, for businesses in San Mateo County, that generate small quantities of hazardous waste. To make an appointment and obtain pricing information, contact Phillips Services Company (PSC), who administers the VSQG program for San Mateo County, at 877-748-3040. For more information contact the San Mateo County Health Services Agency's Household Hazardous Waste Hotline (650) 363-4718 and /or www.smhealth.org/hhw

Large Quantity Generators

Businesses that generate more than 100 kilograms (220 lbs.) of hazardous waste per calendar month, are large quantity generators. For disposal information, contact the City at (650) 829-3848 or San Mateo County Environmental Health Department at (650) 363-4305.

 Reduce,
 reuse, *then*
 recycle.



Office Of Environmental Compliance
City of South San Francisco
650-829-3848
www.ssf.net/depts/public_works/wqcp



**UNIVERSAL
WASTE.....**

**IT'S
EVERYWHERE !**



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