

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY**

### **The Proper Disposal of Fluorescent Lamp**

-Fluorescent light bulbs, including energy saving compact fluorescents contain mercury. When a bulb breaks, it releases mercury which is toxic to the human nervous system and can poison wildlife.

-To minimize the potential for mercury releases from broken fluorescent lamps, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) requires that all lamps be accumulated, stored, transported and disposed of as hazardous wastes, under the Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Management Act and the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

-Store unbroken lamps in a box or fiber drum to prevent breakage and keep that container in a secure, protected area. The area must be a designated and labeled area "Universal Waste Storage Area." The storage container should be closed between uses and stored in a ventilated area that is not consistently occupied.

-Label the container "Universal Waste-Mercury containing Lamps" and mark it with the date on which you first began storing the lamps.

-Have the lamps collected by an authorized hazardous waste transporter within one year of the date marked on the container. We use Veolia ES Technical Solutions LLC

-Contact Environmental Health and Safety if you have a broken lamp.

-Dismantling or crushing of mercury containing lamps must be done with a permit. Therefore the use of fluorescent lamp crusher should stop until we obtain a permit.

-Contact Environmental Health and Safety, if you have any questions.

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