

## August Recyclable of the Month: **Fluorescent Bulbs**

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The use of fluorescent lighting is a cost-effective way to conserve energy and fight global warming. Unfortunately, fluorescent bulbs and tubes contain small amounts of



mercury, a neurotoxin that can be hazardous to those who are exposed to it over a prolonged period of time. Mercury poisoning poses a variety of health and environmental concerns ranging from birth defects in infants to neurological damage to soil contamination. Even though fluorescent bulbs contain only trace amounts of mercury (the average compact bulb contains about 5 milligrams), it is still advisable to dispose of these items safely.



Fluorescent lights are often sold as long, skinny tubes and are generally used in garages or work areas. Compact fluorescent bulbs are widely used throughout households. To ensure proper recycling of these bulbs, Wellesley residents should bring them to the 'fluorescent shed' at the Recycling and Disposal Facility.



*Fluorescent tubes*



For more information, contact superintendent Gordon Martin at 781-235-7600 x 3340, or visit the RDF website at [www.wellesleyma.gov](http://www.wellesleyma.gov).

Learn more about recycling fluorescent lights here: [www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling](http://www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling).