

# Compact Fluorescent Lamps or Tubes (CFLs)

## Time for Change

Many households have already replaced their globes and tubes with CFLs and those who haven't will do so as incandescent globes reach the end of their life.

CFLs are completely recyclable, that is, 100% is used to make other products. However, they are not to be placed in your recycling bin.

Because they contain mercury vapour, CFLs must be collected separately to prevent them from breaking and to ensure they are recycled.

### Myths and Mysteries

**MYTH** - "they save a bit of energy but they contain lots of toxic mercury"

CFLs actually save lots of energy, about 80% of energy used for lighting, and they contain very small amounts of mercury vapour, 3-5mgs, which is sealed within the globe.

**MYSTERY** - "so what are CFLs?"

Put simply Compact Fluorescent Lamps or Tubes (CFLs) are energy saving fluorescent globes that are designed to replace the traditional incandescent light globes. The difference in the way they work is the secret to their energy efficiency.

### Why do we need to change?

Lighting accounts for some 12% of electricity used in the home, therefore, the government is phasing out incandescent globes by restricting sales in order to save energy and reduce pollution. Incandescent globes can no longer be sold unless received prior to the cut off dates.

### How do we recycle CFLs?

Please take your unbroken CFLs and fluorescent tubes to the following Drop-Off Locations within the Rivers Regional Council area:

City of Mandurah	Waste Management Centre, Gordon Road - Ecocycle Bin
City of Gosnells	Operations Centre, Cnr Kelvin Road & Canning Park Avenue, Maddington Ecocycle Bin
City of Armadale	Armadale Landfill and Recycling Facility, Hopkinson Road, Brookdale
City of South Perth	Waste Transfer Station, 199 Thelma Street, Como
Shire of Murray	Administration Building, 1915 Pinjarra Road, Pinjarra
Serpentine/Jarrahdale	Administration Building, 6 Paterson Street, Mundijong
Waroona	Shire of Waroona Landfill Facility, Buller Road, Waroona

### The benefits of Recycling CFLs:

1. Reduces harm to health and to the environment by preventing mercury emissions
2. Recovers resources by recycling and reusing in other products

New recycling technology has meant that mercury-bearing CFLs and fluorescent tubes can now be recycled safely. 100% of CFLs are recycled into the follows products:



Component	Recycled Product
Glass	Glass wool used in household insulation batts
Mercury	Dental Amalgam (containing mercury)
Phosphorus	Fertilisers (containing phosphorus)
Aluminium	Foundry products

### If CFLs are broken, follow these safety tips:

- If indoors, ventilate the area
- Remain at a safe distance for 15 minutes
- Do not vacuum. Using gloves, place broken glass into a sealed container for disposal in the general bin
- Use damp paper, or sticky tape on carpet, to pick up finer pieces and place in container

### The FAQs:

- CFLs use about 20% of electricity to produce the same amount of light as incandescent globes so energy bills are reduced
- CFLs have a longer life, about 6 - 10 times longer than regular globes
- CFLs are more expensive to buy but the saving in energy bills and replacement globes far outweighs this cost
- CFLs contain small amounts of mercury which can be hazardous if not disposed of correctly
- When disposed of correctly, 100% of CFLs can be recycled
- If sent to landfill, mercury vapours are released when the globes are broken
- CFLs require more energy to produce but power stations emit 5 times more mercury from burning coal to produce incandescent globes
- Incandescent globes waste 90% of energy used as heat which is lost to the atmosphere

To prevent the hazardous mercury from ending up in Perth's landfills it is important that these globes and tubes **do not** go into your household rubbish or recycling bins.

Thank you for Caring for Our Environment!