



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Fluorescent Bulb Recycling in Yolo County

(Woodland, CA) – Starting this week, Ace Hardware in Davis, True Value Hardware and Pacific Ace Hardware in Winters, and Sears in Woodland will begin accepting fluorescent light bulbs and tubes from Yolo County residents for recycling.

This recycling opportunity is made possible by a California Integrated Waste Management Board hazardous waste grant received by Yolo County. These four retail stores in Yolo County have agreed to collect fluorescents from residents in a Take-It-Back partnership and as part of the partnership, the county pays for the disposal of the fluorescents while the retail stores provide staff to collect tubes and the storage space for the boxes of burned out fluorescent tubes. Once filled, these boxes are shipped off to a fluorescent lamp recycler, where the mercury is safely captured. Fluorescents will continue to be accepted as long as grant money remains to pay for the boxes.

The California Department of Toxic Substance Control banned the disposal of fluorescent light bulb in the trash beginning in February 2006. Fluorescents bulbs and tubes contain mercury gas, and when broken, the gas is released in the air. Broken tubes/bulbs in a trash can or dumpster can create clouds of mercury gas that are known to linger around the area for hours, exposing those nearby to the harmful mercury gas. Up until now, the only way to properly dispose of fluorescents bulbs and tubes was to bring them to the monthly household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off days at the landfill. The landfill will continue to accept fluorescents at their monthly HHW events, but these new drop-off centers provide Yolo County residents an additional avenue for recycling fluorescents. Other HHW, such as paints, propane cylinders and pesticides, still need to be disposed of during a HHW drop-off day at the landfill. The next HHW drop-off days will be August 10 and 11, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

If you want to bring fluorescent light bulbs in for recycling, please be sure to handle the fluorescents with care. Fluorescents bulbs and tubes (no longer than 4 ft. in length) should be brought to the front desk of the store where a clerk will direct you to the proper recycling location. .

For more information, visit <http://www.yolocounty.org/recycle/yccl.htm> or call (530) 666-8852.

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