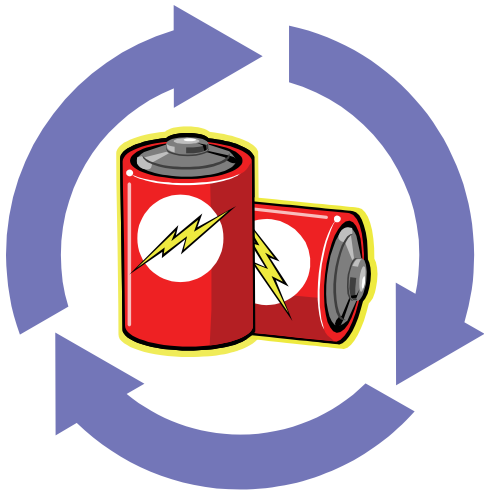


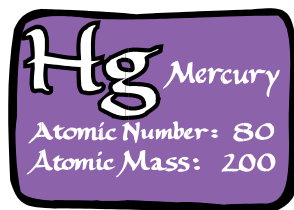
New CA Universal Waste Law

February 8th, 2006

For Residents & Small Businesses



Starting February 8th, households and small businesses will not be able to dispose of universal waste in the garbage, including batteries, electronic devices, fluorescent lights, and mercury thermostats. The Department of Toxic Substances Control tested various electronics and deemed them too hazardous to be thrown into the landfill, because of the high concentrations of metals such as lead and copper. The banned items need to be dropped-off at a household hazardous waste collection event or a recycling facility/transfer station, such as Blue Line Transfer Station or Allied/ BFI Recyclery, unless otherwise indicated. See the listings of where to dispose of items and locations of transfer stations.



The Problem with Mercury

Mercury is a toxic metal that can cause harm to people and animals, including nerve damage and birth defects. If mercury is released into the environment, it can contaminate the air we breathe and enter streams, rivers, and the ocean, where it can contaminate fish that people eat.

BANNED UNIVERSAL WASTE ITEMS

- **Common Batteries** – AA, AAA, C cells, D cells and button batteries (e.g. hearing aid batteries). These may contain a corrosive chemical that can cause burns as well as toxic heavy metals like cadmium. Remember, if you are a Millbrae resident you may recycle them curbside.
- **Fluorescent Tubes and Bulbs and Other Mercury-Containing Lamps** – Fluorescent light tubes and bulbs, high intensity discharge (HID), metal halide, sodium, and neon bulbs. These lights contain mercury vapor that may be released to the environment when they are broken.
- **Thermostats** – Mercury is inside the sealed glass "tilt switch" of the old style thermostats, not the newer ones.
- **Electronic Devices** – This includes televisions and computer monitors, computers, printers, VCRs, cell phones, telephones, radios, and microwave ovens. These devices often contain heavy metals like lead, cadmium, copper, and chromium.
- **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.
- **Pilot Light Sensors** – Mercury-containing switches are found in some gas appliances such as stoves, ovens, clothes dryers, water heaters, furnaces and space heaters
- **Mercury Gauges** – Some gauges, such as barometers, manometers, blood pressure, and vacuum gauges contain mercury.
- **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.
- **Mercury Thermometers** – Mercury thermometers typically contain about a half gram of mercury.
- **Non-Empty Aerosol Cans that Contain Hazardous Materials** – Many products in aerosol cans are toxic and contain flammables, like butane, as propellants for products like paint. If your aerosol can is labeled with words like TOXIC or FLAMMABLE don't put it in the trash. If it is empty, please recycle it with cans and bottles.

Where to Dispose/Recycle Items

- **Household batteries:** For Millbrae residents, recycle at the curbside by putting the batteries in zip-lock type bag on top of the cans and bottles under the blue lid. For other cities, check to see if batteries are accepted curbside. Batteries can also be dropped-off at a transfer station for free.
- **Fluorescent Tubes and Bulbs:** Drop-off for free at a transfer station or County drop-off location described below.
- **Electronic Devices:** Drop-off at a Goodwill Donation Center (1.800.4goodwill or www.sfgoodwill.org for locations) for free or at a transfer station for a fee depending on the item and size.
- **Mercury containing items:** Drop-off available for these items (no electronic devices) for free via San Mateo County's Household Hazardous Waste Program. Drop-off locations are available around the County, typically at one of the transfer stations, by making an appointment at 650.363.4718 or on-line at www.smhealth.org/hhw/ appt. Transfer stations may also accept some of the items.



Transfer Stations

Contact transfer stations to see what items they accept, hours of operation and for directions.

Blue Line Transfer Station/SSF Scavenger Co. – 500 East Jamie Court, South San Francisco, 650.589.4020

Allied/BFI Recyclery – 333 Shoreway Road, San Carlos, 650.592.2411

San Bruno Garbage Co. – 101 Tanforan Ave., San Bruno, 650.583.8536

Coastside Scavenger – 1046 Palmetto Ave., Pacifica, 650.355.9000

Allied/Bfi Daly City – 1680 Edgeworth Ave., Daly City, 650.756.1130

Resources

Department of Toxic Substance Control: www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/UniversalWaste/index.cfm

California Integrated Waste Management Board: www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WPIE/HazSub/UniWaste.htm

CA Department of Conservation/Division of Recycling: www.consrv.ca.gov/dor

Earth 911: www.earth911.org



City of Millbrae

Recycling & Waste
Prevention Program

621 Magnolia Avenue

Millbrae, CA 94030

650-259-2444

www.ci.millbrae.ca.us

Shelly Reider 259.2444
sreider@ci.millbrae.ca.us



Krista Kuehnhackl 259.2339
kkuehnhackl@ci.millbrae.ca.us