

Safe Disposal of Fluorescent tubes and Compact Fluorescent bulbs

Old fluorescent tubes (FL's) and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL's) need to be disposed of responsibly in order to care for the environment. The tubes and bulbs contain small amounts of mercury that contribute to an accumulation of mercury if they are taken to land fill. The old magnetic ballasts from fluorescent tubes also contain PCB's (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) which are classed as a hazardous waste.

The following provides practical information for their safe disposal.

- 1) Auckland Council – Refuse Transfer Station
 - FL's and CFL's are classed as a "not accepted hazardous waste" by Refuse Transfer Stations as they are considered a commercial waste.
 - Some Refuse Transfer Stations will take them but are likely to charge a fee. Phone in advance to check.
 - For more information about Refuse Transfer Stations that accept hazardous waste and what is classed as an acceptable item go to <http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/ENVIRONMENTWASTE/RUBBISHRECYCLING/Pages/hazardouswaste.aspx>
- 2) Zero Waste New Zealand
 - The Zero Waste website recommends the Hazmobile Collection service but this was discontinued in Auckland in 2012.
 - For further information go to www.zerowaste.co.nz/types-of-waste/light-bulbs-and-fluorescent-tubes/
- 3) Selected Ideal Electrical Stores
 - Phone in advance to check if your local store has a fluorescent tube / bulb safe disposal scheme.
- 4) Medi-Chem
 - Medi-Chem provide a commercial (not domestic) collection service for fluorescent lamps and other hazardous waste. The lamps are collected, crushed and sent to Australia for advanced recycling.
 - For further information go to <http://www.interwaste.co.nz/Article.aspx?ID=543>
- 5) Advice on how to clean up after a CFL bulb breakage can be found on the Consumer NZ website Light Bulbs Overview page (scroll down to bottom of page)
 - <https://www.consumer.org.nz/products/light-bulbs/overview>

This resource paper was last updated 30 Oct 2015

For more information visit the [Cherished Earth](#) website.