

Mercury Thermostat Recycling

The Cecil County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division will be collecting WHOLE mercury thermostats from residents at our Cecil County Landfill Recycling Center beginning March 1, 2010. The thermostats will be collected in the provided bin located at the fluorescent lamp recycling area. All thermostats must be whole. Vials of mercury will not be accepted. Bulk Mercury will not be accepted. Those types of mercury should be brought to one of our Household Hazardous Waste Day Events.

Mercury Facts

- Mercury is highly toxic to just about every form of life on the planet. If thermostats and CFLs end up in landfills, chances are they won't remain intact for long. Once the mercury is released, it can leach into the soil and enter the groundwater, making its way to nearby creeks and streams.
- According to the Pennsylvania State Department of Environmental Protection, thermostats contain the largest amount of mercury found in ordinary household products: between three and five grams. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that each year, six to eight tons of mercury from discarded thermostats end up in solid waste facilities and between one and two tons are released into the air.
- Waste Cap of Massachusetts, a nonprofit group that helps businesses reduce, reuse, and recycle solid waste, estimates that a single mercury-containing home thermostat can contaminate a 20-acre lake with enough mercury to result in a fish consumption warning.

http://www.psats.org/tt/mercury_recycling.pdf