



At ProTerra...Lighting is not just our product – it's our passion!

ProTerra Lighting

InfoTech Break

“Important information and technology updates”

What to do when a bulb containing mercury breaks?

This includes all lights that contain mercury such as metal halide, fluorescent tubes, CFL's etc.

Never use a vacuum cleaner to directly clean up broken bulb. The vacuum will throw mercury into the air and increase the toxic exposure footprint.

Essential clean up tools and clothing:

- Rubber, nitrile, or vinyl gloves.
- Safety glasses.
- Broom, cardboard or playing cards
- Duct tape or other heavy duty tape
- Wet wipes, paper towel, or a damp cloth
- Glass container with tight fitting lid
- Clear plastic bags

Isolate the area and evacuate the people in the area. Ventilate the area by closing interior doors and opening exterior doors or windows for at least 15 minutes.

After 15 minutes has passed, carefully remove all materials you can:

1. Wear disposable gloves, if available. Carefully sweep/scoop up the fragments and the phosphorus (white) powder with broom/stiff paper or cardboard.
2. Use wide tape (duct tape) to pick up additional small glass pieces and white powder.
3. Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or disposable wet wipe.
4. Place all parts of the broken fluorescent bulb, towels and tape into the glass container
5. If your clothes come in contact with the mercury gas they must be disposed of following step 4.
6. Wash your hands afterwards.

If the bulb has broken on a carpet, complete the above steps and then...

1. The first time the area is vacuumed, ventilate (as above) and remove the vacuum bag/contents immediately and seal in a sealed plastic bag. If the vacuum is a canister vacuum, wipe the vacuum with wet wipe and seal with a plastic bag.
2. After vacuuming, keep the exterior windows/doors open for at least an hour.

DISPOSAL – DISPOSAL – DISPOSAL

- **Dispose of the waste at a hazardous waste location as soon as possible. Check with local, provincial, or territorial authorities about the requirements.**
- **Do not dispose of the waste in your regular waste.**
- **For more information on safe disposal contact your local environmental agency.**

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