



Fluorescent lamps/bulbs are considered Universal Waste under federal law. This is a special category of hazardous waste and must be managed/disposed of appropriately. Included with fluorescent tubes/bulbs are HID (high intensity discharge) lamps. These lamps are used in many outdoor applications such as stadium and arena lighting as well as in overhead projectors.

EH&S handles all light tube/bulb recycling on campus. This includes fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent bulbs, and high-intensity discharge bulbs. Submit a [Hazardous Waste Pickup](#) request for bulb disposal.

- **Fluorescent Light Tubes** - Place into original manufacturer's boxes or request boxes from EH&S. Write 'Universal Waste - Lamps' and the date on the box. Tape up when full and submit a hazardous waste request for EH&S to pick up.
- **Compact Fluorescent Bulbs** - Place into any sturdy box, tape up, and write 'Universal Waste – Lamps' and the date on the box. Place hazardous waste request for EH&S to pick up.
- **High Intensity Discharge Bulbs** - Place into any sturdy box, tape up, and write 'Universal Waste – Lamps' and the date on the box. Place hazardous waste request for EH&S to pick up.
- **Incandescent Bulbs** – These are not considered universal or hazardous waste. They can be bagged/boxed up (to avoid broken glass) and thrown in the dumpster.



Fluorescent Tubes



Compact Fluorescent Bulbs



High-Intensity Bulbs



Incandescent Bulbs

Universal Waste refers to a specific set of hazardous waste items commonly used and disposed of by businesses and other non-households. Federal and state rules are meant to encourage and streamline management of these categories of waste. Light bulbs/tubes are one of these classes of universal waste. Different types of bulbs/tubes contain chemicals and materials which may be harmful to people or the environment and need to be properly disposed of. OSU has programs in place, managed by EH&S, to assist the campus community with safely diverting these materials from the university hazardous waste stream into appropriate recycling. Light bulbs/tubes managed as universal waste can be recycled and avoid the expense and liability of being treated as hazardous waste.



*Correctly packaged and labeled containers of used light bulbs.*

Contact EHS:  
ehs@oregonstate.edu  
ehs.oregonstate.edu  
541 • 737 • 2273