



Storage and Disposal of Fluorescent Lighting Procedure

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that sufficient information and guidance is provided to ensure fluorescent lighting is disposed of correctly at end of life.

SCOPE

Fluorescent lighting covers any light that uses fluorescence to produce visible light. This would typically include lighting tubes and energy-saving bulbs. Many of these lights contain mercury, which is classified as hazardous waste. As such, this type of lighting must be dealt with in a specific manner.

REFERENCES

Re-use, Recycling and Waste Standard

RESPONSIBILITIES

Maintenance & Operations (M&O) staff: are expected to meet the requirements of this procedure.

University Project Managers (PMs): are expected to ensure that contractors working on behalf of the University meet the requirements of this procedure.

Sustainability Service: will provide training to ensure M&O staff and University PMs are clear on actions they must take to meet the requirements of this procedure.

PROCEDURE FOR STORAGE AND SAFE DISPOSAL OF FLUORESCENT LIGHTING

The main environmental health & Safety risk in fluorescent lighting relates to mercury release. If any bulbs smash they must be cleared up using appropriate PPE and disposed of via the University hazardous waste contractor.

Key requirements:

- Waste fluorescent lamps must be stored in securely enclosed and robust weatherproof containers provided by the university-approved waste management company
- The waste management company must be contacted in adequate time to allow collection and replacement of containers to ensure no lighting is left outside of containment. Waste fluorescent lamps must not be stored for longer than six months.
- Lamps must be neatly packed into containers to minimise movement and risk of breakage. Smashing or breaking of lamps into containers is unacceptable.
- Lamp containers must be stored on an impermeable surface away from drainage.
- A container will also be provided for irregular shaped lamps to be stored separately to straight tubes to reduce potential for breakage.
- At the storage site, appropriate health and safety procedures should also be in place. This should include a well-ventilated space, suitable PPE and a procedure in place in case of breakages

MONITORING

Performance against this procedure will be monitored as part of the internal auditing schedule.

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