

Mercury-containing Lightbulbs Banned from Sale in Vermont

➤ When will the ban on selling these lightbulbs in Vermont start?

Screw based - Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs)

Banned from sale starting **February 17, 2023**



General-purpose – Four Foot (4') Linear Fluorescent Tubes

Banned from sale starting **January 1, 2024**



GU-24 Twist-Lock based – Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs)

Banned from sale starting **January 1, 2024**



➤ Why are these lightbulbs banned from sale?

Energy-efficient alternatives to mercury-containing lightbulbs are widely available. Mercury is a highly toxic heavy metal that is released into the environment when these lightbulbs are broken or discarded. Although bulbs contain a relatively small amount of mercury, Vermonters use so many of these bulbs each year that they contribute to mercury contamination, particularly in fish and wildlife. State and federal fish advisories restrict consumption of certain freshwater and marine fish (see: mercv.org and click on “[mercury in fish](#)”).

➤ What bulbs are included in the restrictions on sale of CFLs?

The CFLs that are restricted from sale do not include specialty bulbs, are either screw-based or twist-lock based and are mercury-containing compact fluorescent bulbs. Look for the “Hg” symbol in a circle and/or contains mercury labeling on the bulb and packaging.

➤ What are my options if I am unable to purchase these bulbs?

- Screw-based and GU-24 based LED bulbs are comparably priced and more energy-efficient than CFLs.
- Three major options are available for fluorescent linear tube replacement:
 - 1) Replace the bulbs with tubular LED bulbs (TLED) replacement bulbs.
 - 2) Replace the bulbs and other components with an LED retrofit kit.
 - 3) Replace the luminaire (fixture).

Note: Efficiency Vermont is currently offering a variety of rebates on LEDs to replace them. To learn more about Efficiency Vermont’s lighting offers, visit: www.encyvermont.com/rebates

➤ What are the options for recycling mercury-containing and fluorescent bulbs?

- Many locations across Vermont collect and recycle fluorescent bulbs for FREE. Free collection sites take unlimited amounts of all types of CFL bulbs and a limit of 10 bulbs per visit of all other general-purpose fluorescent and mercury-containing bulbs. Find your nearest collection locations at VTrecycles.com, click on the orange [Special Recycling](#) icon, and select your county from the dropdown.
- For larger volumes of mercury-containing fluorescent bulb recycling:
 - Contact your local solid waste district or municipality at 802recycles.com.
 - Some electrical wholesale suppliers accept bulbs from their customers for recycling.
 - Businesses that already use a permitted hazardous waste transporter to pick up hazardous wastes may be able to ship spent bulbs using that same transporter.

For more information, contact:

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation – Mercury Education & Reduction Program
www.mercvt.org or (802) 522-5736