

EHS-24 – LAMP DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

WHAT ARE LAMPS?

A more common term for “lamp” is “light bulb”. The term “lamp” is most commonly used by environmental regulatory agencies.

The lamps referred to in this Training Tool are fluorescent, high intensity, and projector lamps.

WHY ARE LAMPS HAZARDOUS?

These types of lamps contain mercury. They are a special form of hazardous waste, known as *Universal Waste*, with more relaxed waste management requirements, compared with other forms of hazardous waste.

HOW SHOULD I DISPOSE OF MY UNIVERSAL WASTE LAMPS?

1. In most cases, the Maintenance Department will take care of replacing non-functioning lamps. They have received special training regarding proper management.
2. If you work in a department which occasionally generates specialty lamps containing mercury, such as Information Technology Services, you should discuss requirements with the Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Dept..
3. Care must be taken to keep lamps intact. A broken lamp releases mercury and requires special disposal methods.
4. Per ADEM regulations, waste lamp collection containers must:
 - a. Remain closed unless lamps are being added.
 - b. Have specific wording on the container: “Universal Waste-Lamps”.
 - c. State the date lamps are first added.

Universal Waste Lamps Date:

The EHS Dept. can email you a label if needed.

Waste lamp containers cannot remain for more than 1 year, therefore, the EHS Dept. needs to know if you collect universal waste lamps.

WHAT IF I HAVE ANOTHER TYPE OF LAMP FOR DISPOSAL?

Used incandescent and LED bulbs may be disposed of in the trash. Carefully wrap the lamp in cardboard and tape shut. Something like a small cardboard box will work. Broken lamps in the trash present a cut hazard to you and to the Environmental Services staff.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE LAMPS?

After collection, lamps are separated by type and prepared for shipment. They are sent to a waste management/recycling company where they are processed. Many components are recycled. The portion that cannot be recycled is compliantly disposed.

CAN I BRING LAMPS FROM HOME?

You are encouraged to find lamp recycling resources in the local community for your home-generated waste lamps, such as big box home improvements centers. Check with www.earth911.com for additional options.

WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?

Contact the EHS Dept. at X4804.

REFERENCES

- Alabama Department of Environmental Management Chapter 335-14-11: *Standards for Universal Waste Management*