

Universal Waste

Federal and State agencies also regulate other wastes the University generates under less stringent guidelines set up to encourage recycling and reduce illegal disposal. The wastes falling under this category are noted as *Universal Wastes* and include batteries, spent fluorescent lamps (lights), pesticides and certain mercury-containing equipment. If you have questions concerning the proper handling, storage and management of any of these wastes contact EHSRM at 468-6034. Please be reminded that it is illegal to dump this waste in trash without following proper procedures.

Batteries: All spent batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V, calculator batteries, etc.) are classified as Universal Wastes and must be recycled.

Fluorescent Lamps: All spent fluorescent lamps, except those with green end caps; contain mercury in such amounts that they exhibit a hazardous waste toxicity characteristic. As with spent batteries, state and federal regulations allow them to be managed as a Universal Waste and must be recycled. However, if the lamps are broken during removal they must be managed as hazardous waste and require labeling and containerization as appropriate. In the event of a broken bulb, contact the Physical Plant or EHS&RM. In addition to the hazardous constituents in the fluorescent lamps, spent light ballasts also require special consideration because they may contain PCBs. Leaking ballast must be kept separate and containerized immediately. In the event of ballast malfunction or leaking contact the Physical Plant.

Pesticides: *Waste pesticides can also qualify as Universal Wastes if they have been recalled or come from stocks of unused products gathered as part of a waste pesticide collection program.*

Mercury-Containing Equipment: This category includes devices, items, or articles that contain varying amounts of elemental mercury integral to its function. Some commonly recognized devices are thermostats, barometers, manometers, temperature and pressure gauges and mercury switches, such as light switches in automobiles.

Aerosol Cans: This a non-refillable receptacle containing a gas compressed, liquefied, or dissolved under pressure, the sole purpose of which is to expel a liquid, paste, or powder and fitted with a self-closing release device allowing the contents to be ejected by the gas.