



Recycling Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs)

Bring in your old compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs for recycling* at the retailers listed below.

NOTE: Home Depot locations in B.C. now accept CFL bulbs for recycling. Check the [Home Depot store finder](#) for a store near you.

Recycling Locations

Lower Mainland

Participating Retailer	Location
Burnaby	
Curtis Lumber	840 Sperling Ave.
Coquitlam	
Canadian Tire	1200 Seguin Dr.
Delta	
Ladner Village Hardware Store	4821 Delta St.
Gibsons	
Gibsons Building Supplies	924 Gibsons Way
Langley	
Curtis Lumber	22454 48th Ave.
North Vancouver	
Canadian Tire	1350 Main St.
Rona Home Centre	915 W. 1st St.
Richmond	
Richmond Home Hardware	Lansdowne Centre
Rona	7111 Elmbridge Way
Rona	3000 Sexsmith Rd.
Sechelt	
Canadian Tire	4380 Sunshine Coast Hwy.
Surrey	

Canadian Tire	7599 King George Hwy.
Vancouver	
Canadian Tire	2290 Cambie St.
Kerrisdale Lumber	6191 West Blvd.
Rona	2727 E. 12th Ave.
White Rock	
Canadian Tire	3059 152nd St.

Interior Region

Participating Retailer	Location
Cranbrook	
Home Building Centre	1901 McPhee Rd.
Kamloops	
Canadian Tire	1441 Hillside Dr.
Kamloops Home Hardware	1475 Hugh Allan Dr.
Prince George	
Canadian Tire	5008 Domano Blvd.
Northern Hardware & Furniture Company	1386 3rd Ave.
Vernon	
Canadian Tire	4510 27 St.
Rona	2201 58th Ave.

Vancouver Island

Participating Retailer	Location
Courtenay	
The Light House	Unit C - 2967 Kilpatrick Ave.
Nanaimo	
Canadian Tire	6900 North Island Hwy.
Green Store	Port Place Mall
Victoria	
Capital Iron	1900 Store St.

Capital Iron

9768 5th St., Sidney

*Only CFL bulbs can be submitted for recycling at participating retailers. CFL tubes are not accepted.

Outside Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, or Interior

If you are located outside the areas listed above, please contact the Recycling Council of BC at 1 800 667-4321, and they can provide answers to your recycling questions.

Common Questions

How are compact fluorescent bulbs recycled?

The Lamp Recycler, the company that recycles the bulbs, utilizes a small vacuum chamber that is constantly rinsed with water. The lamps are fed into the machine and once in the vacuum chamber, the end of the lamp is broken open. The vacuum draws out the mercury and phosphorus, and cold water is used to keep mercury in its most transportable state, a liquid.

The glass is then crushed and the aluminum end caps separated and these items are sent for recycling. The end caps are then sent to local smelters, and the glass is used to manufacture light-reflecting paint for highways. The mercury and phosphorus are placed in sealed drums and sent for separation, recycling and neutralization.

How much mercury is in a compact fluorescent bulb?

Both linear fluorescent and CFL lamps (light bulbs) contain a small amount of mercury, necessary for normal operation. CFLs contain four milligrams, approximately half the mercury found in a linear fluorescent lamp. Mercury vapour will only be released when the lamp is broken while operating. Most lamp manufacturers offer a "low mercury" or environmentally friendly lamp. The green socket or end cap identifies these lamps.

Because compact fluorescent bulbs contain mercury, is it better for the environment to use incandescent bulbs?

No. Although fluorescent lights contain small amounts of mercury, they are far more energy-efficient than incandescent lights. Using energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs is better for the environment because they reduce greenhouse gas emissions from gas-fired generating stations, and reduce the need to build new generation facilities. Because they last about eight times longer, fewer bulbs go into landfills and less packaging is required.

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