

COMMERCIAL LIGHTING PROGRAM

Proper disposal and recycling of lighting products

Responsible disposal and recycling of commercial lighting products ensures that hazardous waste doesn't harm people or contaminate the environment. Two types of hazardous waste are sometimes found in lighting products: the mercury contained in lamps and the polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) that may be present in fluorescent ballasts and in high intensity discharge (HID) ballasts.

Identifying lamps that contain mercury

Most lamps containing mercury can be identified by a label that states "contains mercury" or more commonly, the symbol "Hg" within a circle. All linear fluorescent lamps and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) contain mercury. HID bulbs—mercury vapour, metal halide, and high-pressure sodium—contain mercury as well. Lastly, neon/argon lamps commonly used in electric signs also contain mercury.

Storage, disposal, and recycling of lamps containing mercury

Intact lamps, tubes, and bulbs containing mercury should be placed in their original packaging and labelled accordingly, and then delivered to or picked up by a waste contractor for proper disposal and recycling.

Broken lamps, tubes, and bulbs containing mercury must be treated as contaminated waste material. They should be stored in sealable, non-metal containers marked "Broken lamps – contains mercury" and delivered to or picked up by a waste contractor for proper disposal.

Local commercial lamp recyclers will accept intact lamps at a small cost per lamp. Options for lamp pick-up and drop-off are available. For more information, please contact the companies listed below:

- Clean Harbors
cleanharbors.ca
Phone: 204-956-9770
Email: cox.gregory@cleanharbors.ca
- Environmental Disposal Solutions
edslamprecycling.com
Phone: 204-694-6114
Email: skoslovsky@edslamprecycling.com
- Miller Environmental Corporation
millerenvironmental.ca
Phone: 204-925-9600
Email: sales@millerenvironmental.mb.ca

Identifying lamp ballasts with PCBs

PCBs are in fluorescent and HID ballasts manufactured before 1981. To identify lamp ballasts with PCBs, contact manufacturers of the ballasts and capacitors. Manufacturers use distinct catalogue and date codes to identify the product, manufacture date, and presence of hazardous material(s). Correctly interpreting the codes on the ballast is important in determining whether or not the ballast contains PCBs.

The removal of a ballast from its mount in the fixture should be completed by qualified personnel, and only after the circuit has been de-energized.

Storage and disposal of lamp ballasts with PCBs

Lamp ballasts containing PCBs are hazardous waste and must be handled and stored by a waste contractor until they can be properly destroyed (either by chemical treatment or incineration, in accordance with provincial and federal regulations).

PCB-contaminated equipment must be properly packaged before it can be transported. It should be placed into heavy mil, clear plastic bags, which should then be placed into labelled 205 L (45 gallon) steel waste drums with sealable gasket lids or 20 L (4.5 gallon) white plastic pails with locking lids. Check with a waste contractor for appropriate labeling procedures.

All ballasts containing (or suspected of containing) PCBs must be disposed of by a company licensed to accept PCB ballasts, such as the local companies listed below:

- Clean Harbors
cleanharbors.ca
Phone: 204-956-9770
Email: cox.gregory@cleanharbors.ca
- Miller Environmental Corporation
millerenvironmental.ca
Phone: 204-925-9600
Email: sales@millerenvironmental.mb.ca

Disposal and recycling of LEDs

LEDs are non-toxic and can be disposed of in landfills or by a waste contractor. To recycle your LEDs, contact:

- Environmental Disposal Solutions
edslamprecycling.com
Phone: 204-694-6114
Email: skoslovsky@edslamprecycling.com

Note: Information provided that relates to this subject matter is for general information only and should not be considered as solicitation, endorsement, or recommendation to use or apply to practice any of the same without prior situational assessment and verification with professional person(s) skilled in the respective trade(s). Manitoba Hydro is and will not be responsible for any use or application of any such information and any and all such use or application shall be at the reader's sole risk.

For more information, contact your Manitoba Hydro Energy Services Advisor or:

204-360-3676 in Winnipeg or 1-888-624-9376
energyefficiencyforbusiness@hydro.mb.ca
hydro.mb.ca/your_business

Energy Efficiency for Business guidelines and incentive levels are subject to change without notice. September 2018.

Available in accessible formats upon request.

