

Guidance Notes
Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Programme
Participating Housing Estates (Non Chemical Waste Producers)

Purpose

1. As a reference to provide guidance on the good practices in proper handling of spent fluorescent lamps.

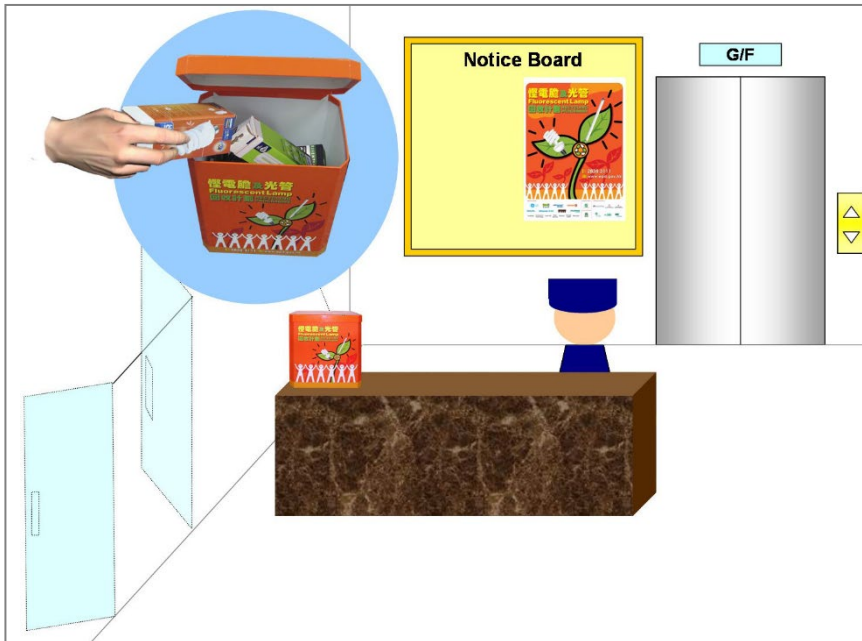
Scope of the Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Programme (FLRP)

2. Spent mercury-containing lamps generated from **domestic premises** :
 - (a) compact fluorescent lamps; and
 - (b) fluorescent tubes (straight tubes and other shapes); and
 - (c) high intensity discharge (HID) lamps (e.g. mercury vapour lamp, metal halide lamp and sodium lamp).

Publicity (see Illustration I)

3. EPD will provide estates with posters and the paper collection box for the Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Programme.
4. The estate management should inform the residents of the new service through newsletters, posters or notices displayed at prominent location of the estate.
5. The estate management should place the paper collection box at a well ventilated area such as near a window or a door that leads to an open area. To draw the attention of residents to the new collection service, the collection box should preferably be put near the service counter or other attended location.
6. For lamps that are too long for the collection box or broken lamps, estate staff should help the residents to put them directly into designated storage containers at the storage area.
7. Residents should place used fluorescent lamps in the packaging of the new lamps before depositing them into the collection box for recycling. If the lamps are broken, advise the residents to put them inside a strong plastic bag and seal the bag before passing to estate staff.

Illustration I

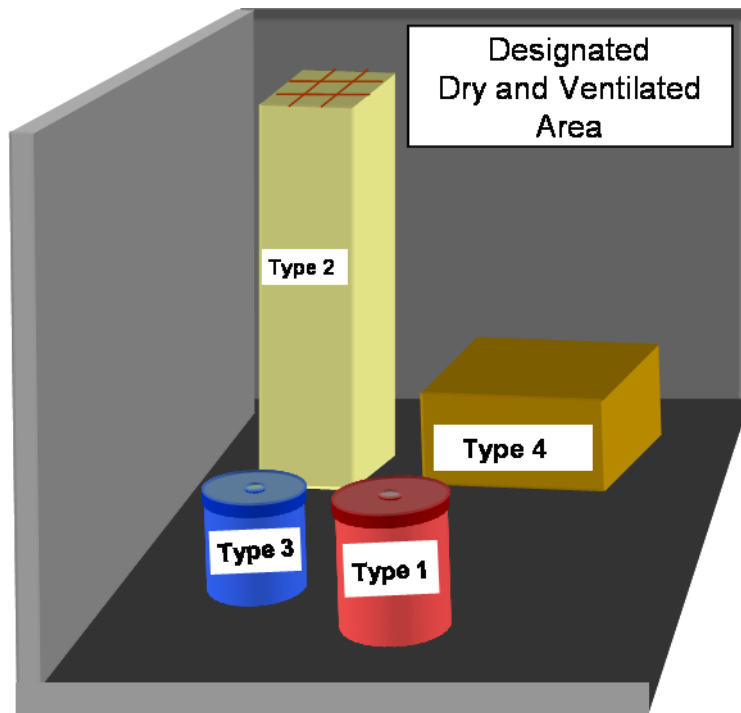


Operation Arrangements (see Illustration II)

8. EPD will provide estates with 4 storage containers (2 cartons and 2 plastic pails) for storing the spent mercury-containing lamps collected.
9. Store the storage containers in a designated area, which should be kept dry and ventilated.
10. Empty the collection box daily or as soon as it is full and put the fluorescent lamps into the storage containers kept at the storage area. Keep the collection box clean.
11. In case residents put incandescent light bulbs or other non-acceptable tubes/items under FLRP into the box by mistake, the incandescent light bulbs should be taken out and separately disposed of.
12. Segregate the lamps collected into 4 separate containers to facilitate subsequent processing at CWTC:
 - Type 1: Compact fluorescent lamps and non straight fluorescent tubes
 - Type 2: Straight fluorescent tubes
 - Type 3: Broken compact fluorescent lamps
 - Type 4: Broken fluorescent tubes (straight and other shapes)

* Place strong plastic bag inside storage containers and prevent them from getting wet at all times. If HID lamps are collected, place them in separate container.

Illustration II



Safety Precautions

13. Fluorescent lamps contain a small quantity of mercury, and broken lamps may present a health risk if not handled properly.
14. Although the mercury content is small, estate staff and cleaning workers should be reminded to handle the lamps carefully at all times.
15. Wear protective equipments such as gloves and face mask to handle broken lamps. If a lamp breaks, open the window to allow the room to ventilate for 15 minutes. In case a fluorescent lamp breaks when being put it into the collection box, take the box out to an open area. Use a disposable paper card or brush to gently sweep up the broken pieces, and use a moist paper towel to wipe up any remaining small fragments. Never use a vacuum cleaner as it will contaminate the cleaner and spread the mercury in the air. If pieces of broken glass come into contact with the skin, wash the affected area(s) immediately and thoroughly with soap and water.

Waste Collection Arrangements

16. Free collection service will be provided by the Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Programme twice a year. Estate management will be notified of the exact date by the contractor of the programme two weeks before.
17. If your estate has stored up one full container of spent fluorescent lamps before the scheduled month, estate management may call their respective Recycling Stations of Green@Community recycling network for an ad hoc pick-up. If no Recycling Station is established at your district yet, please call the relevant contractor at 3162 3417 for other arrangement.
18. Seal the heavy plastic bags and carton with plastic tape or the like and mark clearly the types of lamps (types 1 to 4) contained inside.
19. Fill in and sign on the consignment form prepared by the contractor of the programme.

Enquiries & Support

20. For any enquiry, please contact the Helpdesk at 5575 4068.



Environmental Protection Department
Waste Management and Strategy Group
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