



RECYCLE MERCURY

WHY? Mercury is a silver metal liquid used in products like old thermometers. Mercury is dangerous because it evaporates into the air when a device breaks. Breathing too much mercury vapor can cause brain and organ damage. It is also carried into our rivers and ends up in wildlife, and fish we eat.

WHERE? Bring mercury products to your local Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site. Your Solid Waste District will give information on safe packing and other details. For information on how to find and contact your local **Solid Waste Management District**, visit IndianaHHW.org or contact **Indiana Department of Environmental Management at 1-800-451-6027 or 317-232-8603**. Tell them what county you are from and they will direct you.

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HOW? **1. Jars of Mercury.** Place entire jar into a larger, sturdy plastic container with a screw top lid. Place packing materials so the jar remains upright. This prevents costly spills. **2. Thermostats.** Switch to an energy saving electronic model and bring your old mercury thermostat in a plastic baggie for recovery. **3. Fluorescent Lamps, HID & Sodium Vapor Lamps, Compact Fluorescents.** Mercury is in the white powder. Place in boxes for transport. Clean up broken bulbs by opening a window and pick up the glass with a moist paper towel. NEVER vacuum. **4. Blood Pressure Gauges.** Mercury column will be visible. Place in pail or tote with a lid, but pack to keep upright at all times. **5. Silver Bulb Thermometers.** Place in zip lock bags for transport. Replace before they break with digital models. **6. Mercury Switches.** Glass ampules from thermostats, metal ampules from "silent" light switches. Place in plastic lidded container, bring in.

SPILL CLEANUP? NEVER vacuum - it sends large amounts of mercury vapor in the air. Open windows. Push the blobs together with rigid paper and scoop into a jar. Shine a flashlight across the area to make sure you got it all. If the spill is large or near a source of heat, leave the area and call for professional help. Search under "Indiana Mercury Spill" for even more details.

IN FISH? Special rules on eating fish apply to children under 15 and women who are pregnant or planning to have children. See www.in.gov/isdh/23650 and click on "fish consumption advisory complete report".

OTHER ITEMS? Mercury is also in manometers, barometers, vacuum gauges, candy thermometers, laboratory sink traps, some pre-1995 turfgrass fungicides, and projection Tv lamps.