

# LIGHT BULBS

## PLANNING BEYOND THE BRIGHT LIGHTS

The mercury, glass, aluminium and phosphor powder from light bulbs can all be recycled – but NOT from your kerbside recycling system.



Gumboots Kimball  
- Garden Expert

Energy saving bulbs as well as standard fluorescent lights can contain mercury, which can be harmful to the environment if allowed to leach into the ground.

Fortunately, by recycling a lamp containing mercury, you'll ensure that 99.98% of the mercury used in the lamp is recovered.

## A SORRY STATISTIC

Australians consume 50 to 60 million fluorescent tubes and high-intensity (HID) lamps every year. Of this, only 1% are recycled.

The mercury contained in a compact fluorescent light bulb can pollute 15,000 litres of water beyond a safe drinking level!



## THE WHO'S WHO OF LIGHT BULBS

**Incandescent light bulb** – the light from an incandescent light bulb is produced when a filament is heated to incandescence by an electric current. Since November 2009, incandescent light bulbs are not allowed to be sold in Australia.

**Compact fluorescent light bulb** – a (CFL) is a fluorescent light bulb that has been compressed to the size of a standard incandescent light bulb. More people are switching to CFLs, however they contain mercury that is harmful to the environment if not recycled or disposed of correctly.

**Fluorescent light bulb** – consists of a glass tube filled with a mixture of argon and mercury vapor. A current of electricity causes the vapor to produce ultraviolet radiation that excites a phosphor coating on the inside of the tube and making it fluoresce, or reradiate the energy as visible light.

## TIPS TO REDUCE LIGHT BULB WASTE

- ✓ Replace your fluorescent bulbs with CFLs as they last eight times as long as incandescent bulbs and only need to be replaced every five to six years
- ✓ Before taking your old tubes and lamps to be recycled, keep them in a cool, dry location where they will not be at risk of breaking
- ✓ Pack the lights carefully when travelling to a recycling service, so they do not break
- ✓ Light bulbs of any kind are not recyclable through your kerbside recycling system
- ✓ You must take them to your local transfer station or recycle centre for them to be recycled.

To find out more call **CLEANAWAY** on 13 13 39 or visit our website [halvewaste.com.au](http://halvewaste.com.au)