Light bulbs & Fluorescent Tubes

Why is fluorescent tube and CFL recycling important?

Fluorescent tubes and Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) which are used commonly in residential homes and commercial buildings for lighting contain mercury, a potentially toxic material. It is important to keep hazardous material out of landfills to minimise the environmental impact our landfills are having.

In addition to this fluorescent tubes and other mercury containing lamps contain valuable recoverable materials.

Where can I recycle my fluorescent tubes?

Fluorescent tubes can be dropped off for recycling at any of Murrindindi Shire's Resource Recovery Centres (RRCs):

- ✓ Alexandra
- ✓ Yea
- ✓ Kinglake
- ✓ Eildon
- ✓ Marysville

What happens to my fluorescent tubes after they have been collected for recycling?

After being collected for recycling, the fluorescent tubes are processed and the components of the lamps are separated. The extraction process is able to safely recover the mercury, glass, phosphor and aluminium. Mercury is commonly sold on to the dental industry, where it is used to make amalgam for fillings.

Transportation of fluorescent tubes to the RRC:

Care must be taken not to break fluorescent tubes on the way to drop off your fluorescent tubes at the RRC. Although short term exposure from one broken fluorescent tube is not likely to have any human health impacts, mercury is still a hazardous and potentially toxic material. If the dust falls onto the road, the mercury could be washed away in the rain and contaminate surface and groundwater.

Tips to transporting your fluorescent tube are:

- ✓ If you have replaced your fluorescent tube with a new one, use the box or associated packaging to transport the old tube to the RRC. The cardboard box can then be recycled at the RRC free of charge
- ✓ Place the tube or CFL in a position where it won't bounce around or be crushed by other parts of your load

For more information:

https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/national-waste-policy/mercury-containing-lamps