

HOW TO CLEAN UP A BROKEN FLUORESCENT BULB

1. Before clean-up: AIR OUT THE ROOM

- Have people and pets leave the room and don't let anyone walk through the breakage area on their way out.
- Open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes or more.
- Shut off the central forced air heating/ air conditioning system, if you have one.

2. Clean-up steps for hard surfaces (wood, tile, linoleum)

- Carefully scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a glass jar with a metal lid or in a sealed plastic bag.
- Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass pieces and powder.
- Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes. Place towels in the glass jar or plastic bag.
- Do NOT use a vacuum or broom to clean up the broken bulb on hard surfaces.

3. Clean-up steps for carpeting or rug

- Carefully pick up glass fragments and place them in a glass jar with a metal lid or in a sealed plastic bag.
- Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass pieces and powder.
- If vacuuming is needed after all visible materials are removed, vacuum the area where the bulb was broken.
- Remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister) and put the bag or vacuum debris in a sealed plastic bag.

4. Clean-up steps for clothing, bedding, etc.

- If clothing or bedding materials come in direct contact with broken glass or mercury containing powder from inside the bulb that may stick to the fabric, the clothing or bedding should be thrown away. Do NOT wash the clothing or bedding because mercury fragments in the clothing may contaminate the machine and /or pollute the sewage.
- You can, however, wash clothing that you are wearing or items that were in the room when you cleaned up the broken CFL, as long as that clothing/ item has not come into direct contact with the material from the broken bulb.
- If shoes come into direct contact with the broken glass or mercury containing powder from the bulb, wipe them off with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes. Place the towels or wipes in a plastic bag for disposal.

5. Disposal of clean-up materials

- Immediately place all clean-up materials outdoors in a trash container or protected area for the next normal trash pick-up.
- Wash your hands after disposing of the jars or plastic bags containing the clean-up materials.

6. Future cleaning of carpeting or rug: air out the room during and after vacuuming

- The next several times you vacuum, shut off the central forced-air heating/ air conditioning system and open a window before vacuuming.
- Keep the central heating/ air conditioning system shut off and the window open for at least 15 minutes after vacuuming is completed.