

Lamp Cleanup

CFL's contain a small amount of mercury that is used to produce light. Aurora lamps contain less than 2mg whereas most lamps contain approximately 4mg. Mercury cannot escape from an intact lamp and even if the lamp is broken the small amount of mercury is highly unlikely to cause harm. But it would still be sensible to follow the steps below to avoid any unnecessary contact with mercury and broken glass from the tubes.

1. Take care to prevent injury from broken glass.
2. Turn off the air conditioning system if there is one.
3. Open a window or door and leave the room for 15 minutes. Make sure people or pets do not walk through the breakage when leaving the room.
4. Use rubber gloves and try to minimise the amount of airborne dust while cleaning up.
5. **On a hard surface** use pieces of stiff card to scoop up the broken pieces and place into a sealable plastic bag. Use a damp rag or paper towel to completely wipe clean the area. Put the card, rag or paper towel into the bag.
6. **On carpeting or other soft surfaces** put the broken pieces into a sealable plastic bag. Use the sticky side of duct tape or any similar tape to pick up any small pieces of glass or powder. Put the tape into the bag.
7. Use a vacuum cleaner to clear up any small pieces of glass. Dispose of the dust bag in a sealable plastic bag.
8. Use a second plastic bag to minimise the risk of cuts from the broken glass.
9. The bagged lamps can be discarded through your local council. All local councils have to make arrangements for disposing of hazardous household waste. Many local authorities have a special place for hazardous household waste at a civic amenity site or household waste recycling centre. The National Household Hazardous Waste Forum runs a website with details of these centres for chemicals, but which also applies to other hazardous wastes (<http://www.chem-away.org.uk/>). Alternatively contact your local council direct.