

# Green Light's Mercury & Recycling Tips

## All compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) contain a small amount of mercury and need to be recycled.

No mercury is released when bulbs are intact. (i.e., not broken) One CFL contains about 5mg of mercury. By comparison, mercury thermometers contain about 500 mg of mercury —an amount equal to the mercury in over 100 CFLs.

Mercury is found in many rocks, including coal. When coal is burned at a utility plant to produce electricity, mercury is released into the environment. Using energy saving CFLs reduces demand for electricity and therefore reduces the amount of mercury released into the environment, especially when they are recycled.

**In the U.S., burning coal at power plants results in about half of all mercury emissions from man-made sources.\*** Small amounts of mercury can be released when a CFL breaks, or if it is improperly disposed of at the end of its life. Despite this fact, the use of CFLs actually helps reduce total mercury release because of their significant energy savings.

### What to do if a Compact fluorescent lamp breaks:

The EPA recommends the following clean-up and disposal guidelines.\*

1. Open a window and leave the room (restrict access) for at least 15 minutes.
2. Remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner.
  - Carefully scoop up the fragments and powder with sti paper or cardboard.
  - Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or disposable wet wipe.

- Sticky tape (such as duct tape) can be used to pick up small pieces and powder.
- 3. Place all clean-up materials in a plastic bag and seal it.
- Seal the bulb in two plastic zip bags and recycle. The current CFL recycling option for New Orleans is Home Depot or Lowe's (Go to Returns Desk). You cannot recycle CFLs in your curbside bin.
- 4. Wash your hands after handling the broken CFL.
- 5. The first time you vacuum the area where the bulb was broken, remove the vacuum bag once done cleaning the area (or empty and wipe the canister) and put the bag and/or vacuum debris, as well as the cleaning materials, in two sealed plastic bags in the outdoor trash or protected outdoor location for normal disposal.

\*Source EPA: <http://www2.epa.gov/c>

## BRING ALL USED CFLS TO HOME DEPOT OR LOWE'S FOR FREE RECYCLING. JUST DROP THEM OFF AT THE STORE.

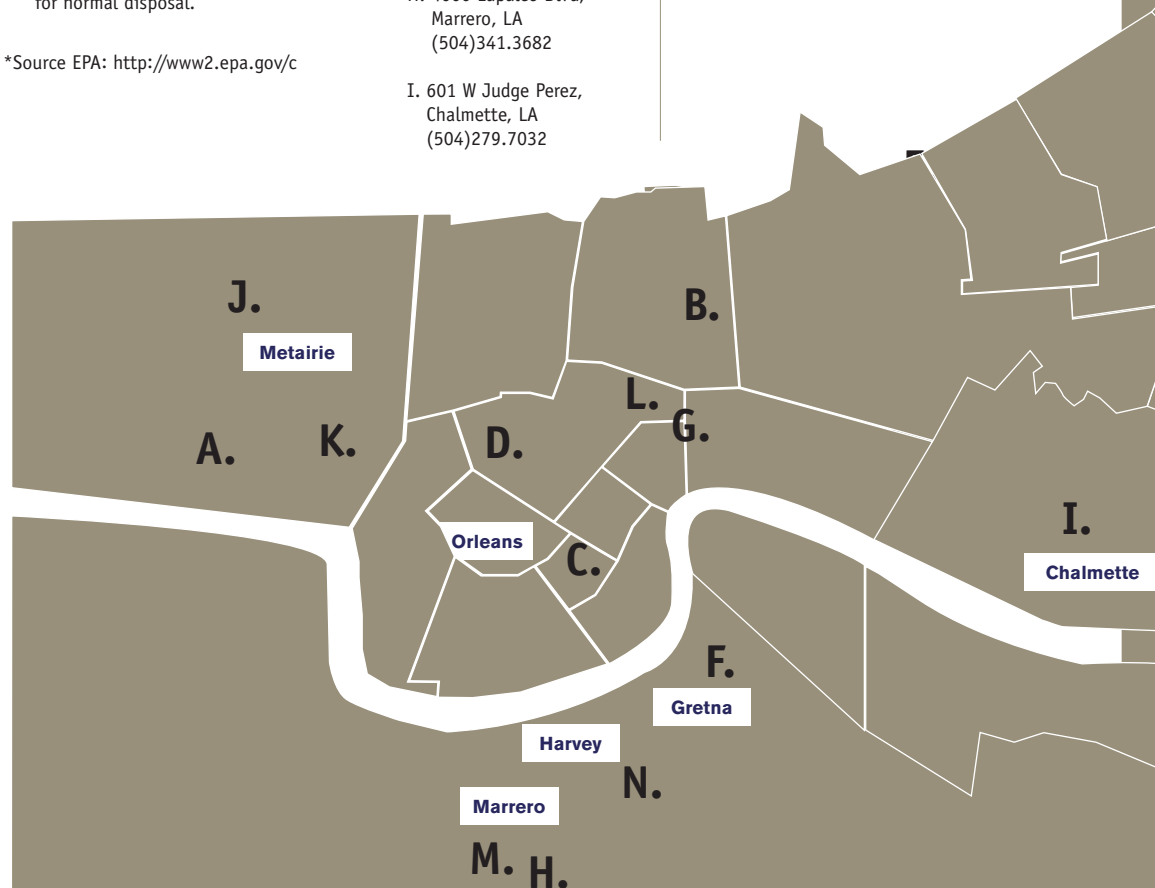
Check Green Light's website at [www.greenlightneworleans.org](http://www.greenlightneworleans.org) OR call Green Light at (504)324.2429 for the latest recycling info.

### HOME DEPOT

- A. 5151 Citrus Blvd #A  
New Orleans, LA  
(504)729.4400
- B. 4700 Old Gentilly Rd,  
New Orleans, LA  
(504)940.5548
- C. 1100 S Claiborne,  
New Orleans, LA  
(504)529.0000
- D. 500 N Carrollton Ave,  
New Orleans, LA  
(504)482.1985
- E. 12300 I-10 Service Rd,  
New Orleans, LA  
(504)246.4572
- F. 62 Westbank Expy #A,  
Gretna, LA  
(504)362.3460
- G. 2454 N Galvez St,  
New Orleans, LA  
(504)940.5548
- H. 4600 Lapalco Blvd,  
Marrero, LA  
(504)341.3682
- I. 601 W Judge Perez,  
Chalmette, LA  
(504)279.7032

### LOWE'S

- J. 3640 Veterans Memorial Blvd,  
Metairie, LA  
(504)780.0114
- K. 121 Jefferson Hwy,  
Jefferson, LA  
(504)832.7100
- L. 2501 Elysian Fields,  
New Orleans, LA  
(504)948.8568
- M. 1701 Baratavia Blvd,  
Marrero, LA  
(504)613.1830
- N. 1351 Manhattan Blvd,  
Harvey, LA  
(504)227.0495



### GREEN LIGHT NEW ORLEANS

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Green Light New Orleans  
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