

## **Fluorescent light bulbs, Mercury Thermostats & Thermometers, Mercury Switches from households**

Fluorescent light bulbs/tubes contain a small amount of mercury vapor. Older wall-mounted thermostats have a ball of shiny silvery liquid metal mercury. Thermometers with a silver (not red) column probably contain mercury. Mercury has been used in a wide variety of products, even kid's flashing sneakers. Unfortunately, [Mercury](#) is a deadly poison. Chronic exposure leads to brain damage. Mercury easily gets into water, then into fish, then back into humans. Mercury containing products of any source **must** be disposed/recycled as "**household hazardous waste**". Columbia County offers Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Events where your mercury containing light bulb, thermostat or mercury switch can be collected and properly managed. The Transfer Station in St. Helens holds the event on the last Saturday of each month and periodically holds 'mobile' collections events in Vernonia and Clatskanie. For further information on the next HHW event in your area, contact the Columbia County Solid Waste Coordinator at 503.397.7263 or [roy.weedman@co.columbia.or.us](mailto:roy.weedman@co.columbia.or.us)