

# Ballast Disposal



## UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Ballasts may contain Polychlorinated biphenyls, also known as "PCBs". PCBs are a class of toxic compounds that can be harmful to human health and the environment when improperly disposed.*

**CONTACT EHS FOR MORE INFORMATION, TO ORDER LABELS, OR TO REQUEST A COLLECTION:**

**Environment,  
Health & Safety  
Hazardous Materials  
Management Program  
(734) 763-4568**

**All lamp ballasts MUST be recycled properly!**

### WHAT TYPES OF BALLASTS ARE ACCEPTED?

All makes and types of ballasts are collected by EHS Hazardous Materials Management (HMM) as part of the ballast collection/recycling program. Contact HMM at 763-4568 for delivery of waste containers (5-gallon pails and 30-gallon steel open head drums), labels, and for collections. Under no circumstance should any ballast be discarded into the general trash.



Containers for ballast collection

### HOW ARE BALLASTS COLLECTED FOR RECYCLING?

Remove the ballast from the lighting fixture and place it in the properly labeled container. Be certain to keep the lid closed on the ballast pail or drum at all times.

| LAMP BALLAST<br>NON-RCRA REGULATED WASTE   |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>UN3432</b>  |                                |
| Material Description: Used fluorescent light ballasts. RC, Polychlorinated biphenyls, solid, 9, PCBs |                                |
| GENERATOR INFORMATION:   |                                |
| Name: _____  | Department: _____              |
| Location: _____  | Project: _____                 |
| Account Number: _____  | Work Order Number: _____       |
| Company Name (if applicable): _____  | Phone: _____                   |
| The University of Michigan   | Site Contact: _____            |
| Dept of EHS (734-763-4568)   | Accumulation Start Date: _____ |
| 1500 Dean Road   | Manifest Number: _____         |
| Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2159   | Total Weight: _____            |
| In case of accident contact U of M Department of Public Safety (24 hrs) at (734)763-1131             |                                |
| <b>HANDLE WITH CARE!</b>   |                                |

Lamp Ballast Label

A yellow "Lamp Ballast" label must be affixed to the pail or drum. Fill out the label, including the "Accumulation Start Date." The accumulation start date is the first day that you begin filling the container with ballasts. All ballasts must be shipped for recycling within **one year** of the accumulation start date. However, ballasts should only be accumulated for 10 months or less to ensure compliance. All light bulbs should be handled and disposed of separately from ballasts.

Place any **leaking** ballast(s) in a sealed bag and place in a separate, properly labeled closed container. Contact HMM at 763-4568 when you are ready to have your ballast drums collected.

### WHY RECYCLE BALLASTS?

Ballasts may contain polychlorinated biphenyls, also known as PCBs. Because PCBs are toxic and classified as a persistent organic pollutant, it is imperative that all ballasts on campus be disposed of properly so that no PCBs are released into the environment. Although PCB production was banned in the United States in 1979, it is still possible to find PCB containing ballasts throughout campus.

### HOW ARE BALLASTS RECYCLED?

Ballasts are disassembled at a certified hazardous waste facility. Steel, copper and other metals are removed, sent to a smelter and recycled for industrial use. Capacitors, potting material and PCB components are containerized for EPA approved incineration.



A 30 gallon drum of lamp ballasts