Ballast Disposal

All lamp ballasts MUST be recycled properly!

WHAT TYPES OF BALLASTS ARE ACCEPTED?

All makes and types of ballasts are collected by OSEH 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.

LAMP BALLAST
NON-RCRA REGULATED WASTE

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.

WHY RECYCLE BALLASTS?

Ballasts may contain poly chlorinated 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 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.

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.

Contact OSEH for more information, to order labels, or to request a collection:

Occupational Safety & Environmental Health, Hazardous Materials Management Program (734) 763-4568

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