



HOME DEPOT ACCEPTS USED COMPACT FLUORESCENT BULBS FOR RECYCLING

As consumers continue to buy and use energy-saving Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs) for their homes and businesses, proper disposal of those bulbs has become a growing concern.

CFLs contain mercury, which creates an environmental hazard if improperly disposed of. As of June 2008, Home Depot has been making the recycling process easier, as the retailer announced plans to take back old compact fluorescents in all 1,973 of its locations across the United States. As the country's second largest retailer, this means that Home Depot's program serves as the nation's most widespread recycling program for CFLs. "Customer response in our stores regarding CFL recycling has been tremendous in Louisiana and across the nation," said Craig Fishel, Public Relations Manager for Home Depot, Southern Division.

Until last summer, consumers were mostly in the dark when it came to finding an authorized CFL recycler. Oftentimes, consumers had to wait for a designated CFL recycling day to come around, as recycling programs offered by retail outlets, community organizations and businesses were either non-existent or rare.

CFL recycling programs across the country have been scant. According to a recent article by the New York Times, industry professionals estimate that the recycling rate across the nation is around 2 percent.

As a matter of convenience for most households, Home Depot accepts all types of CFLs for recycling. In addition, Home Depot estimates that 75 percent of the nation's homes are within 10 miles of a Home Depot location.

While Home Depot has actively promoted the bulbs as part of their commitment to the environment, they felt a growing need for a national recycling program. Such a recycling program is likely to generate more business for the chain as they continue to expand their market.

To take advantage of the free recycling program, customers should place their unbroken or expired CFLs in a plastic bag and deposit them in the bright orange recycling container at any Home Depot location. The bulbs are then managed by a recycling management company who then handles the collection, packaging and transportation of the bulbs under environmentally safe measures.

To find out more, inquire at the nearest Home Depot, or visit them on the web at www.homedepot.com.



Home Depot's CFL Recycling container