



Mercury and CFL's

CFLs contain an average of 5 milligrams of mercury or about the amount it would take to cover the tip of a ballpoint pen. By comparison, old thermometers contain about 500 milligrams. Here are some important facts about the mercury in CFLs:

- Mercury is an element found naturally in the environment. Mercury emissions in the air can come from both natural and man-made sources.
- No mercury is released when bulbs are intact or in use.
- There is a proper way to dispose of broken bulbs to reduce your exposure to mercury.
- Coal-fired power plants are the largest man-made source of mercury emissions. When coal is burned to make electricity, mercury is released into the air. Coal-fired power generation accounts for roughly 40 percent of the mercury emissions in the U.S.

Compact fluorescents use less electricity than standard bulbs, reducing demand for power and the use of coal-burning plants. Overall, CFLs will help reduce mercury emissions in our atmosphere.

