

# How to Handle Broken CFLs and Fluorescent Tubes

See the recommendations below as outlined on the Federal Government's Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website.

## What should I do if I break a CFL?

Although the mercury content of CFLs is small, and scientific investigations into the potential risks of mercury exposure from an accidentally broken CFL report that for the average person poisoning is very unlikely, lighting companies typically recommend that if a CFL breaks, people should:

1. Open nearby windows and doors to ventilate the room.
2. Use a brush to carefully sweep up the pieces and then use a paper towel, preferably moist, to wipe up any remaining glass fragments and phosphor powders.
3. Use disposable rubber gloves.
4. DO NOT use a vacuum cleaner because this can spread the contents of the bulb and contaminate the cleaner.
5. Place all of the pieces of the light bulb and clean-up materials into a sealed plastic bag for disposal in your waste bin or in accordance with the advice of your local waste disposal authority.

