

## What should I do if a CFL breaks?

Since there is a small amount of mercury in CFLs there are limited health risks. Below are some disposal guidelines to minimize risks.

- Do not vacuum! Remember to never use a vacuum. A standard vacuum will spread mercury containing dust throughout the area as well as contaminating the vacuum.
- Have people and pets leave the room.
- Ventilate the area. Air out the room for 5-10 minutes by opening a window or door to the outdoor environment.
- Shut off the central forced air heating/air-conditioning system, if you have one.
- Collect materials needed to clean up broken bulb: stiff paper or cardboard; sticky tape; damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes (for hard surfaces); and a glass jar with a metal lid or a sealable plastic bag.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, such as gloves, safety glasses, coveralls or old clothing, and a dust mask to keep bulb dust and glass from being inhaled.
- Carefully remove the larger pieces and place them in a secure closed container.
- Next, begin collecting the smaller pieces and dust. There are several ways to do this. You can use two stiff pieces of paper.
- Pat the area with the sticky side of duct, packing or masking tape. Wipe the area with a damp cloth.
- Put all waste and materials used to clean up the bulb in a secure closed container.
- Dispose of the container through the [Tioga County Household Hazardous Waste Program](#).

**Please Note: For more descriptive directions to clean up a small mercury spill please go to the Environmental Protection Agency website at <http://www.epa.gov/cfl/cflcleanup.html>**

**However, if you are concerned about your health after cleaning up a broken CFL, consult your local poison control center by calling 1-800-222-1222. You can call your center any time you have questions or in an emergency**