

B.C.E.P. Solid Waste District

towns of

Barnstead – Chichester – Epsom – Pittsfield

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January 1, 2008 Ban on Disposal of Mercury Items in Trash

Effective January 1, 2008, RSA 149-M:58 bans the disposal of all products containing intentionally-added mercury in the trash, regardless of the amount of mercury they contain. Homeowners and businesses alike are affected by the ban on such items as thermometers, thermostats, electrical switches, mercury button cell batteries and fluorescent light bulbs, including compact fluorescent bulbs. Because mercury is a highly toxic chemical that does not break down, and accumulates in our bodies over time, it should not be discharged to the environment.

BCEP accepts these items for proper disposal at no charge. Hand them to a staff member.

Mercury in the Home & Alternatives

Consumer Product	Description	Mercury-Free Alternative
Thermometers	Silver colored liquid in glass tube	Alcohol or digital thermometer
Thermostats	All non-electric models	Electronic models
Fluorescent Lights	Light bulbs in the form of long or curved tubes	None, give to BCEP Staff
Button Batteries	Button shaped batteries usually found in watches, calculators, toys, greeting cards, musical books, hearing aids and pagers.	None, give to BCEP Staff
Alkaline and Carbon Batteries	Prior to 1994 and foreign manufactured	Rechargeable or alkaline batteries manufactured after Jan 1, 1996.
Latex Paints	Prior to 1991	Prior to 1991, give to BCEP Staff
Shoes that Light Up	Prior to 1994	Shoes that do not light up. Shoes with lights may contain a button battery that contains mercury.
Pilot Light Sensors	Some gas appliances such as stoves, ovens, clothes dryers, water heaters, furnaces and space heaters	Mechanical or pressure switches
Electrical Switches and Relays	Some chest freezers, pre-1972 washing machines, sump pumps, electric space heaters, clothes irons, silent light switches and automatic car hood and trunk lights	Mechanical or pressure switches
Contact Lens Solution	May contain Thimerosal or other mercury compounds	Mercury-free solutions
Nasal Spray	May contain Thimerosal/phenylmercuric acetate	Mercury-free solutions
Mercurochrome	An old time antiseptic for cuts and scrapes	New antiseptics do not contain mercury
High Intensity Discharge (HID) Lamps	Blue tinted automotive headlamps	Mercury-free HID
Neon Lamps	Except the colors red, orange and pink	Mercury-free neon colored lamps
Gauges	Barometers, manometers, blood pressure and vacuum gauges only with silver colored liquid	Mercury-free gauges