

Information on handling broken energy-saving lamps

Compact fluorescent lamps (energy-saving lamps) contain small amounts of mercury. The legally admissible upper limit is defined by the EU RoHS Directive and currently amounts to 2.5 mg per burner. This is required for a stable and efficient operation of such lamps. During regular operation no mercury whatsoever will be released.

The only way of exposure to the mercury is breaking the lamp. Therefore only ever touch compact fluorescent lamps on the base.

Should a lamp break anyhow, please act as follows:

- If the lamp broke within a luminaire, first take the luminaire off the electric circuit in order to avoid an electric shock.
- Be careful not to hurt yourself on the cullet.
- Put on disposable gloves and carefully collect the cullet.
- Small remaining pieces can be picked up with a paper towel or adhesive tape.
- Avoid using a vacuum cleaner in order not to distribute the mercury in the air.
- Vacuum cleaners should only be used if the surface does not leave an option (carpet). The vacuum cleaner bag must afterwards be disposed of.
- Collect the lamp remains, paper towels, disposable gloves, vacuum cleaner bag etc. in a sealable bag and carry it outside.
- The room must be ventilated for at least 20-30 minutes.
- Disposing of broken or disused compact fluorescent lamps with the regular household garbage is prohibited. Take them to your municipal collection point for problematic substances (buyback centre) or contact our waste management partner Interseroh (www.interseroh-weee.de).