Managing used fluorescent lamps
A guide to keeping Reed safe and compliant

According to the EPA, used fluorescent lamps can be considered **Hazardous Waste** or Universal Waste.

Reed counts used lamps as Universal Waste.

**Why universal waste?**

*Universal Waste* is cheaper and easier to manage.

If Reed considered lamps to be *Hazardous Waste*, we’d have to
• Pay hazardous waste fees
• File extra reports
• Complete additional training and planning requirements
• Harm the environment!

Lamps marked as *Hazardous Waste* can be crushed once they are sent to a waste disposal plant, which releases mercury vapor. This is *harmful to workers and the environment*. The components are not recycled or reclaimed.

The government prohibits crushing of lamps marked as *Universal Waste*. They do not count towards Reed’s generation of hazardous waste. The lamps can be recycled and the mercury can be reclaimed.

**What can we do to prevent lamps from being Hazardous Waste?**

• Place used lamps in **closed** containers such as cardboard boxes or fiber drums.
• Make sure the lamps **fit inside the box**.
• **Mark the date** when the first lamp is added.
• **Label the box** “Used lamps,” “Waste lamps,” or “Universal Waste – Lamps”.
• Store broken lamps in a closed, structurally sound container to prevent the release of mercury.

Otherwise our lamps will be **Hazardous Waste**.

**What are the dangers of mercury?**

Mercury is toxic and may be fatal if inhaled. It damages the reproductive system and kidneys. It’s also toxic to fish and other organisms. Signs of exposure include tremors; changes in behavior; and skin irritation.

Sources: www.osha.gov
www.deq.state.or.us
www.sigmaaldrich.com