



RAGS Information Sheet: LIGHT BULBS



31 Alloa Business Centre, Alloa, FK10 3SA

t:0845 838 1141

e:ragdesk@rags.org.uk

w:www.rags.org.uk

Ordinary light bulbs

At present, these should be disposed of by placing in your rubbish bin. For safety reasons wrap the bulb up in newspaper in case the glass breaks. Alternatively, put them in the general waste skip at your local Civic Amenity site.

Fluorescent tube light bulbs

Fluorescent light bulbs are “household hazardous waste” as they contain toxic heavy metals such as cadmium, mercury and lead. They can be harmful to health and the environment unless disposed of responsibly.

- Mercury from one fluorescent light tube can pollute 30,000 liters of water

However, fluorescent light bulbs can be safely repossessed by specialised companies to recover the metal and glass components for recycling.

Households

- Light bulbs can not be placed in the glass recycling banks as the metal filaments contaminate the recycling process.
- Local Authorities often have a collection point for fluorescent lights at Civic Amenity.
- Contact your Local Authority directly (see RAGS “Domestic Recycling” information sheet) or check the Waste Aware Scotland website at www.wascot.org.uk for details of facilities at your local Civic Amenity Site.

Commercial

- For business and commercial waste, there are a number of companies that will collect waste from business premises. There is usually a charge for this service.
- Civic amenity sites are generally only available to household and non-commercial waste. Some sites will take commercial waste, but there may be a fee for this. Please contact your local authority for more details.

Other useful websites

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| • www.lamprecycle.co.uk | Recycling information on fluorescent light bulbs |
| • www.mercuryrecycling.co.uk | Information on recycling fluorescent light bulbs |
| • www.wasteonline.org.uk | In depth online recycling information |
| • www.recycle-more.com | General information on recycling |

RAGS Members involved in commercial light bulbs recycling

Lampcare (UK) Recycling Ltd

Glasgow

01388 721000

Please contact RAGS to be listed here