What should I do if my CFL accidentally breaks?

DO:

CAREFULLY scoop up the glass shards and any fragments and powder with stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a sealable leak proof plastic bag.

- Adhesive tape (such as duct, masking or insulation tape) can be used to pick up any small fragments and powder.
- Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes and place them in the plastic bag.
- Place all the clean-up materials (disposable gloves and cardboard) in a second sealable leak proof plastic bag.
- Place the first bag in the second plastic bag. Seal the second plastic bag.
- Wash your hands.
- You can then deposit the waste CFL free of charge at a local authority Civic Amenity Facility in the area designated for the recycling of WEEE/Fluorescent Lamps.
- If vacuuming is needed after all visible materials are removed, vacuum the area where the bulb was broken, remove the vacuum bag and put the bag or vacuum contents in two sealed plastic bags and place in the household bin.

To minimise any:

- Exposure to mercury, which may be released if the CFL is broken,
- Risk of cuts from shards of glass,

The following procedures should be carried out:

If a CFL breaks, you SHOULD:

- Keep people, especially children, and pets away from the affected area.
- Ventilate the room by opening a window.
- Turn off any interior ventilation system.
- Switch off any heating appliances in the affected area.
- Leave the room for no less than 15 minutes, making sure to close the door as you leave.
- Wear disposable rubber gloves.
- Avoid inhaling dust from the broken lamp.

DO NOT USE:

- a vacuum cleaner, or
- a brush, or
- a mop,

to clean up the broken glass.

For more information and relevant links please see **www.bulbexchange.ie**

weee ireland

APPROVED **RECYCLING** SCHEME

Health & Safety Information

weee ireland

APPROVED **RECYCLING** SCHEME

What are CFLs?

Compact Fluorescent Lamps or 'energy savers' are small fluorescent lamps (lightbulbs) that are designed for use in the home.

Did you know?

CFLs use 80% less energy. As they are 'energy savers', they can last up to 15 times longer than ordinary bulbs, so are cheaper in the long run and generate less waste.

They can use up to 80% less energy thereby reducing your:

- Electricity bill.
- Carbon emissions.
- Also by recycling the lamps through 'The Great Bulb Exchange' you can improve your environmental footprint even further.

Q: What should I do when a CFL or fluorescent tube reaches its end of life?

A: Bring it for FREE recycling

- Under the WEEE Directive, retailers are required by law to take back waste CFLs and fluorescent lamps free of charge on a one-for-one, like-for-like basis from householders.
- Where replacement fluorescent tubes and CFLs are bought over the counter, retailers must take back the old product in-store.
- Each local authority must also accept household waste CFLs and fluorescent tubes free of charge at its Civic Amenity Sites from members of the public.
- The crossed out wheelie bin symbol on CFLS and other electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) are a reminder never to place waste CFLS and EEE (WEEE) into either your waste disposal or recycling bins.

Visible Environmental Management Costs

- The Great Bulb Exchange is part of the WEEE take back initiatives supported by the visible Environmental Management Costs (vEMCs) displayed on sale of certain types of EEE including Gas Discharge lamps such as CFLs and LED light sources by Producers, Distributors and Retailers in the lighting supply chain in Ireland.

The Great Bulb Exchange

- The Great Bulb Exchange is a national campaign which aims to increase awareness among the public about safe and proper environmental management of waste CFL and other waste bulbs on both how and where to recycle.

Take Care When Handling CFLs

- CFLs are made of glass and therefore, like ordinary bulbs, can break if not handled with care.
- Therefore you should take the same precautions as you would when changing an ordinary light bulb. Furthermore, be sure to handle a CFL by its base (not the glass). Never force any lamp into a light socket. If you are unsure of how to change a lamp you should engage a RECI or ECSSA certified electrician.
- CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing of the lamp.
- Mercury is currently an essential component of CFLs and is what allows the lamp to be an energy efficient light source. No mercury is released when the CFL is intact or in use.