

Tips for Identifying & Handling 'Difficult to Manage' Items in Your Home

Reworld and CET have developed a [Difficult-to-Manage Items booklet](#) which covers identification and management of most household waste streams, including links to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) guidance.

Elemental Mercury

- Elemental mercury can be found in garages, and storage areas, and is an extremely toxic and hazardous material.
- If spilled, mercury can vaporize and be inhaled into your respiratory system.
- Mercury must be kept in glass or plastic jars as it will corrode a metal container. Make sure that the jar has a lid and is not stored in a location where it can fall and break. It is also important to put in secondary containment, such as a plastic tub with lid or zipped plastic bag.
- If you have elemental liquid mercury, do not transport it or throw it in the trash!

Call Complete Recycling Solutions at 1.866.277.9797 x705 for free* pickup

*For elemental liquid mercury only, and location depending.

What Else in my Home May Contain Mercury?

- Fluorescent light bulbs & tubes, including CFL bulbs
- Thermostats & Thermometers
- Button cell batteries & switches
- Blood pressure cuffs
- Glass column barometers and certain other antiques



How Can I Tell if it Has Mercury?

All fluorescent light bulbs contain trace amounts of mercury. For other devices, look at the liquid in the device or glass tube – if it is silver, then it is most likely mercury. Some products are also labeled with Hg or 'contains mercury.'

What Do I Do if I Find One of These Items?

If you come across a mercury-containing device in your home, do not worry! It is safe as long as it's intact, so make every effort to prevent breakage. Keep the item in secondary containment in case it breaks, such as a plastic tub with lid or zipped plastic bag. [Locate a mercury-containing device disposal site](#), or call the MassDEP Mercury Hotline at 866-9-Mercury or 866-963-7287. If mercury spills, follow [proper clean-up procedures](#) as detailed by the MassDEP.

Other Resources for Home Cleanouts

[Recycle Smart MA: Can I Recycle This?](#) A guide for common recyclables and a search tool for difficult to manage items.

[MassDEP Textile Recovery](#) and [Beyond the Bin Directory](#) A location directory for items such as clothing, electronics & paint.

[Donation Guidance for Building Materials](#) to donate or purchase when remodeling.