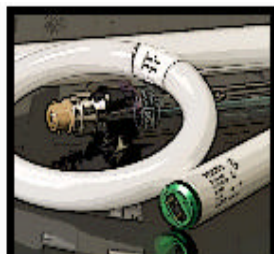


# Handling Universal Waste

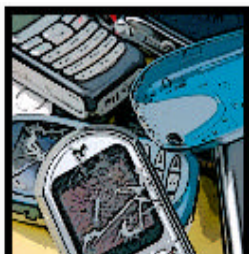
**Universal Waste** is a designation given by Federal and State agencies to some commonly found hazardous wastes to allow for simpler handling, recycling and disposal. These wastes may contain lead, mercury, copper or other materials that can pollute groundwater, streams and wildlife. All Universal Wastes are hazardous wastes and if not recycled, must be managed as hazardous wastes. **Universal wastes must be recycled through an authorized recycling facility.**



HOUSEHOLD  
SOLID BATTERIES



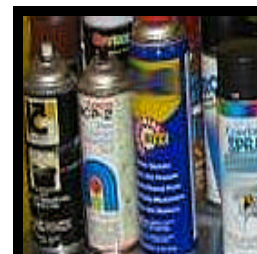
FLUORESCENT  
LIGHTS



MOBILE PHONES



ELECTRONICS



AEROSOL CANS  
(NON EMPTY)

## Handling Instructions

1. Store all wastes so they do not spill, leak, break, or release into the environment
2. Don't mix with other wastes!
3. Place in a sturdy box or container from vendor
4. Label the box "*Universal Waste—Batteries* (or other contents of box)". Include your business name, address and accumulation start date.
5. Seal the box and follow vendor's directions for pickup or shipping.

If you do break an item (especially a light tube) :

1. Sweep it up
2. Put in sealed container
3. Place in box that holds other universal waste

## Handler Requirements\*

- Train employees in proper management of Universal Waste
- Keep records of Universal Waste disposal for 3 years
- You may store wastes for no more than one year

## Common Examples of Universal Waste\*

- Aerosol cans (non-empty)
- Household batteries (not auto)
- Electronics/ E-waste: computers, telephones, TVs, etc.
- Light bulbs/ tubes: fluorescent, high intensity discharge, sodium vapor
- Mercury thermometers
- Mercury switches
- Neon signs (e.g. OPEN signs)
- Exit signs containing compact fluorescent lamps

## For more information:

Find waste service providers with the EcofindRRR at [www.sfenvironment.org](http://www.sfenvironment.org).

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (800) 72-TOXIC [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)

CA Integrated Waste Management Board [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WPIE/HazSub/UniWaste.htm](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WPIE/HazSub/UniWaste.htm)

San Francisco Hazardous Materials Unified Program Agency (415) 252-3900

<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/EH/HMUPA>



\*Not a complete list of regulations or designated universal wastes.