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Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008

Letter to the Editor: Disposing of new lights

Editor: I came across the following in a magazine and feel it should be brought to the attention of all CF light bulb users.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs pose a nightmare if they break and require special disposal procedures. Consider the procedure offered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection Web page titled, "What if I accidentally break a fluorescent bulb in my home?" Don't vacuum bulb debris, because a standard vacuum will spread mercury-containing dust throughout the area and contaminate the vacuum. Ventilate the area and reduce temperature. Wear protective equipment like goggles, coveralls and a dust mask. Collect the waste material in an airtight container. Pat the area with the sticky side of tape and wipe with a damp cloth. Finally, check with local HAZMAT to see where hazardous waste may be properly disposed of.

The only step the Maine department left off was the final one, hope you did a good enough job of a cleanup so that you, your family or pets are not poisoned by any mercury inadvertently missed.

RICHARD M. CLERKIN

Atwater

February 14, 2008

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