



Universal Waste Information

Universal wastes are hazardous wastes that are subject to less stringent regulations. The universal waste regulations streamline collection and management requirements for certain widely-generated hazardous wastes to facilitate environmentally sound collection and proper recycling or treatment. At GSFC, universal wastes include the following categories:

- Batteries,
 - Mercury thermometers and thermostats,
 - Fluorescent lamps.
- **Batteries**, other than alkaline, contain material normally designated as hazardous waste and need special handling:
 - Alkaline batteries can be safely disposed of with normal household waste.
 - Different battery types must be segregated (lead acid, NiCad, lithium, silver).
 - Keep containers closed.
 - There are battery recycling bins in some buildings for NiCad and Lithium batteries. For locations visit: [Battery Recycling Bin Locations](#).
 - **Fluorescent Lamps** contain mercury and must be managed properly:
 - Email the hazardous waste team at gsfc-hazwaste@lists.nasa.gov or call x6-9233 to set up a collection area.
 - Keep containers closed.

There is an expenditure of government resources for battery disposal; therefore, only work-related batteries may be disposed of at GSFC. Check with your county of residence for disposal of batteries and other household hazardous waste. Here a few websites for Maryland counties to give you a jump start:

- Montgomery County: [Recycling, Trash, & Yard Trim Programs](#)
- Prince George's County: [Residential Recycling Program](#)
- Howard County: [Howard County Recycles](#)
- Anne Arundel County: [Waste Management Division](#)

The Medical and Environmental Management Division will collect and properly dispose of universal waste. Call us at extension 6-9233 or e-mail at gsfc-hazwaste@lists.nasa.gov.