

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency updated guidelines for cleaning a broken CFL, December 2010:

How to Clean Up a Broken Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb (CFL)



A CFL's glass tubing contains about 4 milligrams of mercury. While this isn't much (classic thermometers contained 500 milligrams) consumers should still take precautions if a CFL breaks.

- 1** Ventilate the room, then wait 5 to 10 minutes. 
- 2** Scoop up powder and glass fragments using stiff paper or cardboard. Seal in a plastic bag. 
- 3** Use duct tape to pick up any fragments or powder.
- 4** Immediately place all materials used to clean up and the plastic bag in an outdoor trash container. Remember to wash your hands. 
- 5** Not all recycling centers accept broken CFLs. Check with your local and/or state waste authority for disposal requirements, or visit Earth911.com.

To learn more visit epa.gov/cflcleanup. 

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency

Looking out for you.

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