

Town of Westhampton – Transfer Station News

New Universal Waste Shed

Divert your mercury products, ballasts and batteries!

A new Universal Waste Shed (items containing mercury vapor) has been installed at the Town's transfer station. The Shed that has been acquired through a MADEP Equipment Grant and with Recycling Dividend Program funds is for the collection of mercury vapor lamps, mercury thermometers, ballasts, and batteries that are banned from disposal in the trash.

Lamp Collection Guidelines

The Universal Waste shed is for the recycling of fluorescent bulbs and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs). Both contain mercury vapor and require special disposal. LED light bulbs do not have to be recycled but contain valuable materials and can be brought to the Universal Waste shed for collection along with the fluorescent lamps. Hand your lamps and bulbs to the transfer station attendant. Long fluorescent lamps can be brought to the transfer station in their original boxes from the manufacturer or loose. Never tape lamps together in a bundle.

Light bulbs of all types should not go in with your household recyclables (think bottles, jars, tubs, jugs). Incandescent bulbs may be disposed of in with your trash along with Halogen lamps. Carefully wrap incandescent and Halogen bulbs in used paper or plastic before placing them in the trash.

Thermometers and Thermostats

Mercury is highly toxic and requires special disposal. Mercury thermometers and thermostats are not hazardous when contained in a sealed device. When transporting used or unwanted items to the transfer station, place each item in a sealed plastic bag and handle carefully to avoid breakage. Hand your items to the attendant. Mercury thermometers contain a silver liquid. Thermometers with red or blue liquid do not contain mercury and can be disposed of with the trash. Wrap items in used paper or plastic before placing them in the trash.

Battery Collection Guidelines

Button and Lithium Batteries: Do not dispose of in the trash. Spent button batteries are part of our mercury waste collection program. Button batteries need to be stored so that they do not come into contact with one another. Place spent hearing aid batteries back into the dispenser that you purchased them in and

place the dispenser into a zip lock bag. Button and lithium batteries must also be stored individually. Button batteries should be placed on a clear piece of packing tape with a second layer of tape used to secure the batteries so that they do not come in contact with one another. Clear tape is required so that battery identification is still possible. Non-button type Lithium batteries should each be individually bagged. Please hand your taped Button and bagged Lithium Batteries to the transfer station attendant.

Rechargeable Batteries and Cell Phones: The demand for single-use and rechargeable household batteries has significantly increased over the last decade as society switches to using more mobile products. When batteries aren't properly disposed of, however, they represent a serious threat to the environment and public health, as well as a significant waste of recyclable materials. Thanks to an industry-funded battery take-back program, the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative has joined with *Call to Recycle*, to provide free recycling services for rechargeable batteries and Cell Phones at our town and other HRMC member-Town transfer stations.

Bring your Nickel-cadmium (Ni-cad), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion) from laptops and iPods, Small sealed Lead (Pb), Nickel Zinc (NI-Zn) as well as the battery components from rechargeable razors, battery charged toothbrushes, flashlights, and hand-held vacuums to the transfer station. Rechargeable batteries should be placed individually in plastic zip lock bags before being stored together with other rechargeable batteries to prevent risk of fire. Please hand your bagged rechargeable batteries to the transfer station attendant.

Alkaline Batteries: (AA, AAA, C, D and 9 Volt): Domestically manufactured batteries made after 1994 no longer contain mercury and can be disposed of in with your household trash. Alkaline Batteries are not considered a hazardous waste. Alkaline batteries as well as Carbon Zinc, and Zinc Chloride batteries can be placed in with your bagged trash. Consider using rechargeable batteries instead of disposable batteries.

Ballast Collection Guidelines

Most ballasts from fluorescent light fixtures produced before 1979 contained small amounts of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a highly toxic substance. PCB free ballasts are marked "No PCBs". Hand you ballasts to the transfer station attendant to ensure whether your item needs to be proper handled/disposed or if it can be placed in with the metals recycling.