

Safety Spotlight:

[National Immunization Awareness Month](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam/)

Five Minutes for Safety:

[National Stop on Red Week](https://ncsrsafety.org/stop-on-red-week-2023/)

Safety Data Sheets

In 2012, [OSHA](https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1200) updated its Hazard Communication standard to align with the international GHS standards. These [documents](https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/25579-importance-safety-data-sheets#:~:text=They%27re%20%27essential%20for%20a%20compliant%20hazard%20communication%20program%27&text=A%20Safety%20Data%20Sheet%27s%2016,trying%20to%20comprehend%20the%20details.) should be up to date (in SDS format) for process changes and emergency responder use.

3,300 House Fires a Year!

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation([ESFI](https://www.esfi.org/reaching-to-safety-use-extension-cords-properly#:~:text=Roughly%203%2C300%20home%20fires%20originate%20in%20extension%20cords,year%2C%20killing%2050%20people%20and%20injuring%20270%20more.)), about 3,300 extension cord-related house fires occur each year, killing 50 people each year and injuring 270. Safe use of electrical cords is important to prevent electrical fires.

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Power Cords: Use Them Correctly!

Power cords are convenient to use at home and in the office, especially when you have an elaborate office set up or need somewhere to plug in appliances and charge devices; however, it is important to keep in mind that overloading or improper use of electrical cords can cause fire or electrocution.

The DOA Tenant Manual is a best practice to refer to for use of electrical cords for non-DOA tenants and required for DOA Tenants. Information on electrical can be found on pages 13 & 14. See: <https://doa.wi.gov/DFTS/FacilityTenantManual.pdf>

Here are some additional tips (from multiple sources below) to keep in mind when using cords at work (best practices at home too):

1. **Check for the cord’s rated amperage and intended usage:** 
   1. See the labels on back to find this information.
   2. [Surge protectors aren’t power strips](https://www.ul.com/insights/guide-power-strips-and-surge-protectors). There is a difference!
   3. Check for rated environments before use.
      1. <https://www.grainger.com/know-how/equipment/kh-choosing-the-right-extension-cord>
2. Don’t overload circuits by daisy chaining or plugging in every outlet.
3. Use Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory-rated power cords:
   1. <https://www.osha.gov/nationally-recognized-testing-laboratory-program>
   2. <https://www.osha.gov/nationally-recognized-testing-laboratory-program/current-list-of-nrtls>
4. Use **grounded** (three-pronged) power cords with grounded devices.
5. Don’t use damaged power cords: throw them out, don’t use cords that are spliced together either.
   1. See: [29 CFR 1910.305](https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.305)(g)(2)(ii) & <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/1992-06-17>
6. Don’t modify power cords if not qualified to do so, don’t use them to replace fixed wiring for longer than necessary to complete any jobs that would be allowed by OSHA to use temporary wiring.
   1. See: <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/1992-06-17>

In This Issue:

**Power Cords: Use Them Correctly!**

**Used Light Bulbs**

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Figure 1 Example of improper universal waste lamp storage. Obtained from Iowa DNR Website: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Portals/idnr/uploads/waste/P2%20Workshops%20Resources/22june29_epauniversalwaste.pdf>.

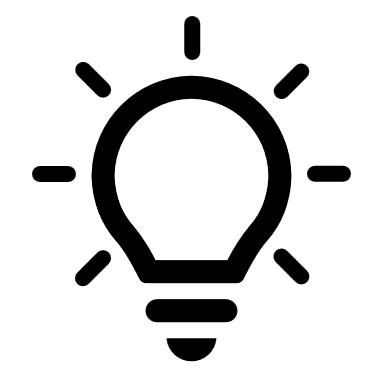


Figure 2. Example of proper lamp disposal, obtained from [ADEQ Publication FS 14-10](https://legacy.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/hazwaste/download/ADEQ_FS-14-10.pdf)

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Used Light Bulbs

It cannot be expressed enough the importance of proper handling of bulbs to prevent unnecessary toxic chemical exposure to personnel and the environment. Broken fluorescent lightbulbs such as CFLs and incandescent lights can release toxic mercury liquid and vapors (or other heavy metals) and cannot be cleaned up by simply sweeping up or vacuuming broken lightbulbs and throwing remains into the trash.

Broken light bulbs, even after cleanup, can release [hazardous](https://www.epa.gov/mercury/health-effects-exposures-mercury#metallic) mercury contamination beyond safe levels lasting for several [hours](https://www.maine.gov/dep/homeowner/cflreport.html) if done improperly.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has produced [cleanup guidance](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/mercury/spill.htm) and the Universities of Wisconsin have produced a [web page](https://www.wisconsin.edu/ehs/hazmat/mercury/) containing information on mercury to assist with regulatory compliance and safe disposal.

Because many lightbulbs or “lamps” are filled with mercury, the Wisconsin DNR and EPA have written [regulations](https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/doclink/waext/WA195.pdf) so they are safely disposed of.

Here is a (non-exhaustive) list of WI DNR requirements from [PUB-WA-195](https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/doclink/waext/WA195.pdf) summarizing how to store used bulbs for disposal for public & private institutions:

1. Place waste lamps in storage boxes. Good storage box options include the box in which any replacement lamps arrive, or cartons provided by a lamp handler or recycler. Do not tape the lamps together as this may end up breaking the lamps.
2. Make sure the storage box is closed to ensure the waste lamps cannot come loose.
3. Label and date storage boxes clearly with the words “universal waste lamps,” “waste lamps” or “used lamps.” Handlers must mark the date on which the lamps were placed in storage on the cartons or boxes or keep records of when lamps were placed in storage. A handler may store lamps for up to one year.
4. Store lamps in a safe place to prevent breakage and mark the storage area appropriately.
5. Separate lamps broken by accident into a leak-proof container that will prevent the release of mercury or other hazardous waste materials.

For more information, see: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Waste/Universal.html> & <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/600/673.pdf>

For additional questions on the disposal of lamps and bulbs, and other hazardous wastes please consult the mandatory hazardous disposal vendor on record: <https://vendornet.wi.gov/Contract.aspx?Id=d28e211e-8ae4-e911-8116-0050568c7f0f>

Consumer Safety

[United States Consumer Product Safety Commission](http://www.cpsc.gov/)

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