

# How are fluorescent light tubes recycled?



printwaste  
Sustainable Recycling



# Fluorescent light tube recycling step-by-step.



## Step 1: Collection

We'll collect your fluorescent tubes and transport them back to our recycling facility, where they'll be carefully stored in safe, weatherproof containers (to prevent potentially harmful mercury vapour escaping) until we have enough to send on to a specialist reprocessing centre.

## Step 2: Crushing

Once at the reprocessing centre, the tubes will be fed under negative air pressure and crushed. The negative air pressure will prevent the mercury vapour from entering the atmosphere and ensure it is safely captured instead.

## Step 3: Separating

The crushed materials will then pass through a range of systems to separate them into their individual components (metal, glass, plastic, phosphor and mercury).

## Step 4: Recycling

Now separated, each component will follow the regular recycling route for their individual material. Metals and plastics will be turned into new metal and plastic products, glass will mainly be used as aggregate in road construction, phosphor powder in new fluorescent tubes and mercury into pure metal.



Did you know? One fluorescent light tube contains enough mercury to contaminate 30,000 litres of water!

# We hope you found this useful & informative.

If you did, you'll be happy to  
know we have a whole bunch  
of process sheets for you...

## Recycling process sheets



Cans



Cardboard



Cartons



Paper cups



Glass



Wood



Plastics



Paper



Fluorescent  
light tubes



WEEE



Polystyrene



Tins



Non-recyclables

## Confidential shredding process sheets



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Confidential paper

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