

# FACT SHEET: Universal Waste Disposal

## Safe Practices and Guidelines



Universal waste is a collective term for discarded electronic devices, gadgets, light bulbs, and appliances. Each year, millions of tons of universal waste end up in domestic and international landfills. To help reduce stress on the environment, Tulane is continually optimizing its management and recycling of universal waste.

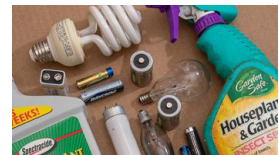
### NEED TO KNOW:

- **NEVER** put universal wastes in the trash. These are still regulated wastes. You could be breaking the law!
- ServiceWave requests can be initiated by visiting Gibson Online and using the [ServiceWave](#) tab.
- OEHS waste collections can be requested through the “Waste” tab in [Sci-Shield](#).

### ARE UNIVERSAL WASTES HAZARDOUS?

Universal wastes have a lower health risk to individuals and to the environment than other hazardous wastes. State and Federal regulations identify what products are defined as universal wastes and provide simple rules for handling and recycling. **Examples of common universal wastes are:**

- Mercury switches, thermostats, thermometers
- Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, Button)
- Fluorescent light tubes and bulbs
- High intensity lamps
- Cathode Ray Tubes (CRT)
- Some pesticides



### WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY OLD ELECTRONIC DEVICE?

- The Tulane eWaste Recycling Program is managed by the [Property Management Office](#). Request pickup with a [ServiceWave](#).
- Contact the Tulane Help Desk at 504-862-8888 to have information removed from computers prior to recycling.

### HOW DO I DISCARD MY UNIVERSAL WASTES?

- **Fluorescent tubes and bulbs:** Request collection by Facilities Services using [ServiceWave](#).
- **High intensity lamps (UV Bulbs):** Request collection by OEHS.
- **Mercury-containing equipment:** Request collection by OEHS.
- **Non-rechargeable alkaline batteries:** Discard in the regular trash.
- **Rechargeable batteries:** Take to a recycling center.
- **Computer/UPS batteries:** Request collection by Facilities Services using [ServiceWave](#).
- **Lead-acid or lithium batteries:** Request collection by OEHS.

### ! HOW TO STORE YOUR UNIVERSAL WASTE BEFORE COLLECTION:

Universal Waste must be managed in a way that prevents releases to the environment. This means that all Universal Waste must be stored as follows:

- **Batteries, lamps, and thermostats** that show evidence of leaks, spills, or damage that could cause leaks must be kept in a container that is closed, structurally sound, and compatible with the contents.
- **Lamp containers** must prevent the breaking of the lamps and must remain closed.
- **Universal Waste pesticides and antifreeze** must be kept in a container, tank, or other vessel that remains closed, is structurally sound, compatible with the Universal Waste, and that lacks evidence of leaks, spills, or damage that could cause leaks.
- **If a container develops a leak**, it should be moved into an over pack container.
- You must **immediately clean up and place in a container** any broken lamp or lamp that shows evidence of breakage, leaks, or damage that could cause the release of mercury or other hazardous constituents to the environment.

### MORE INFO:



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality: [Information for Louisiana Small Quantity Handlers of Universal Waste](#); EPA: [Universal Waste](#)