

Mercury is Toxic and can't be disposed of in any NYS Landfill



Products containing mercury

What is Mercury?

Mercury is a naturally occurring metal. It is liquid at room temperature, binds easily with other metals and conducts electricity well. Because of these properties, mercury has been used in many household, medical and industrial products. Products containing mercury are considered household hazardous waste (HHW).

For more information on Madison County's Household Hazardous Waste program call 1-800-721-2208 or go to madisoncounty.org and scroll down to the bottom of the home page.

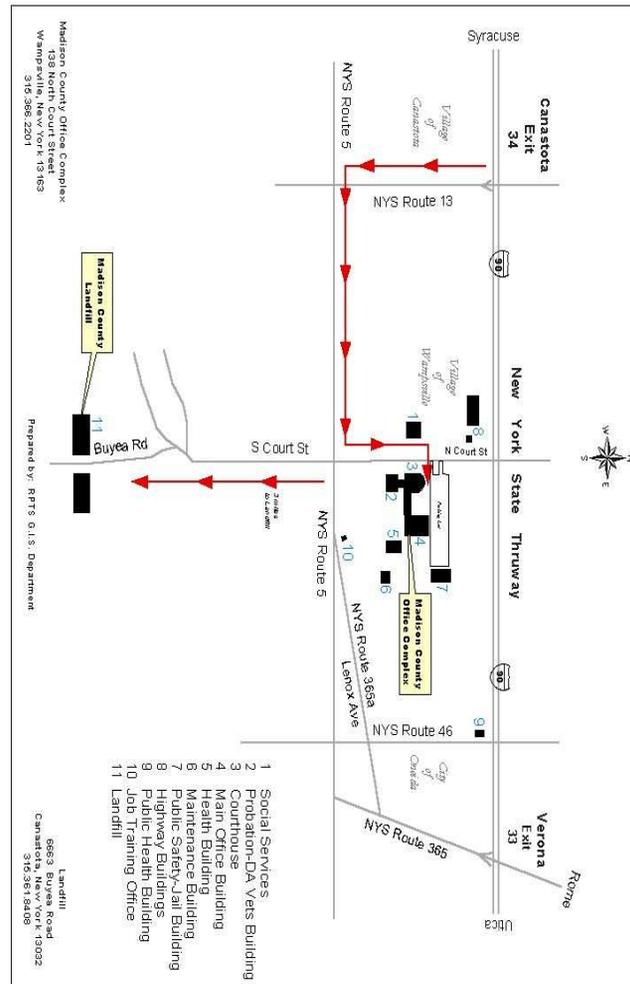


County Begins Pilot Project to Collect Mercury Based Products Dec. 5

A pilot project has been established to collect mercury based products at the Buyea Rd. Landfill (transfer station) in the Town of Lincoln beginning Saturday, December 5, 2009 from 7:10 a.m. to 3 p.m. See attendant for disposal.

Mercury based products will be accepted on the first Saturday of each month. Residents only. No businesses.

Preparation: When preparing bulbs for disposal place tubes back in original sleeve or box or in the sleeve the replacement tube came in. The CFLs (spiral bulbs) should be wrapped in one sheet of newspaper and then placed in specially marked container at the Buyea Rd transfer station. If you have questions ask the transfer station attendant.



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New York State Law Summary

New York State Law, Chapter 145, of 2004 restricts the distribution, sale and disposal of mercury and mercury-added products. The purpose of this law is to reduce human and wildlife exposure to mercury by requiring the proper management of this toxic substance.

Disposal of mercury-added products is not allowed in the normal trash. Products containing mercury must be delivered to a household hazardous waste collection program.

For more details on NYS Mercury laws go to the Department of Environmental Conservation website at www.dec.state.ny.us



One gram of mercury can pollute a 20-acre lake. Mercury still holds the number one ranking on the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) list of the 19 most persistent toxic metals targeted for control and eventual elimination.

Why is Mercury a Concern?

When mercury enters the waterways, it changes, (through natural chemical process) to methyl mercury, which is more toxic. Methyl mercury in the food chain builds up in the tissue of fish and animals. In humans, mercury is a neurotoxin. This means it slows fetal and child development and impairs brain function along with other physical affects.

Mercury is toxic in small amounts. Because mercury builds up in the food chain, even small amounts of mercury in water can make fish unsafe to eat and cause reproductive problems for wildlife. Mercury vaporizes at room temperature so even a small mercury spill indoors can make the air unsafe to breathe.

Where is mercury in my home?

Mercury is found in the following products:

- Thermometers (fever, candy, fry indoor/outdoor and oven)
- Thermostats (non-electric)
- Older paints (before 1990)
- Fluorescent & spiral lights
- Pilot light sensors in gas stoves, water heaters and dryers
- Barometers
- Clothes irons with automatic or tilt shutoff
- Blood pressure cuffs

Non-electric home thermostat, and thermometer (fever, candy, fry, indoor/outdoor, oven) are a few of the items one one might find in their home that contain mercury and can be disposed of through Madison County's new Collection program for



Mercury based products. For a complete list visit the Dept of Environmental Conservation website at www.dec.state.ny.us

What do I do if I break something that contains mercury?

Never use a vacuum to clean up a mercury spill.

First, open windows to ventilate the room. If mercury was spilled on a smooth surface, use two pieces of stiff paper to scoop all the beads of mercury and place in a sealable container. If spilled on carpet, use an eyedropper to pickup beads of mercury. Remaining beads of mercury can be picked up using sticky tape. Put any contaminated portion of carpet and all cleanup material in a plastic container. All material should be taken to the household hazardous waste facility.