



SAFE COMMUNITY COALITION

Mercury in Your Home

Many common household items such as thermometers, thermostats, certain electrical switches, and fluorescent lightbulbs can contain mercury. When these items are broken, burned, or tampered with, the mercury can be released in the air of your home. Breathing air that contains mercury can cause nerve and kidney damage.

Safety Tips

- Avoid buying items that contain mercury. Look for safer substitutes such as alcohol-filled or digital thermometers.
- If you have mercury items, dispose of them at Clean Sweep. Do NOT throw in the garbage or down the sink. Clean Sweep does not accept fluorescent bulbs. Fluorescent bulbs can be disposed at any store that sells them or at a local lamp recycler.

- If you have a spill of mercury, contact the poison center at **1-800-222-1222** or Madison or Dane County Public Health.

Clean Sweep is a program that allows Madison and Dane County residents to dispose of their unwanted and unneeded hazardous materials free of charge. It is located at 2302 Fish Hatchery Rd. from May 1 through October 30. Please call 294-5366 for recorded information about the program or visit their Web site at www.danecountyclean-sweep.com.

Written by: Madison Department of Public Health, Dane County Division of Public Health, UW WI Healthy Homes Initiative, UW Hospital Poison Prevention Education Center