

DON'T MESS WITH MERCURY!

Many common household items contain small amounts of mercury. These items pose no threat when used properly; however, they can be dangerous if they are misused or improperly discarded. The following is a list of a few items that potentially contain mercury. Please remember that items on this list do not necessarily contain mercury, as many mercury-free alternatives exist. If you suspect that you have mercury containing items, contact the manufacturer for proper disposal information when they need to be replaced or discarded.

Non-digital thermostats, including some in appliances:

Stoves	Ovens
Water heaters	Clothes dryers
Furnaces	Space heaters

Some switches or relays in:

Chest freezers	Washing machines
Sump pumps	Clothes irons
Electric space heaters	Silent light switches

Some types of lights:

Fluorescent lamps**
High-intensity discharge (HID) bulbs

Some medicine cabinet items:

Fever thermometers	Mercurochrome
Merthiolate	Saline Solutions

Miscellaneous items:

Button-cell batteries	Unused pre-1990 paint
Old alkaline batteries	Clock pendulums

*This list is not intended to be comprehensive.

**Fluorescent lamps are more energy-efficient than their alternatives and should continue to be used.

For additional information - please visit the websites listed below:

[EPA](#)

[NEORS](#)

[Mercury](#)

A Little Bit Goes A Long Way

- Forty-four states now issue warnings about eating mercury contaminated fish.
- There is between a half of a gram (0.02 oz.) and three grams (0.1 oz.) of mercury in a fever thermometer.
- The EPA has determined that the level of mercury safe for fish-eating wildlife in the Great Lakes is no more than 1.3 billionths of a gram of mercury per liter of water (0.17 billionths of an ounce of mercury per gallon of water). This is equivalent to a drop of mercury the size of a pencil-tip eraser in a pool of water as long, wide and deep as Cleveland Browns Stadium.