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## Bakersfield News

### Mercury In CFL Bulbs Could Pose Hazard

POSTED: 4:37 pm PDT May 22, 2008  
UPDATED: 4:43 pm PDT May 22, 2008



**BAKERSFIELD, Calif.** -- Over the last few years much attention has been given to compact fluorescent light bulbs in terms of how they save energy and therefore save the environment. But there is an environmental concern associated with the CFLs.

It turns out the environmentally friendly bulbs may have an impact on home environments as the CFLs -- like light bulbs of the past -- contain small amounts of mercury.

Mercury can cause health problems if inhaled, ingested or gets onto skin. It's also effective at enabling white light and that's why it is used in CFL bulbs. But when a CFL bulb breaks, there is a chance that a powder containing the mercury could spill out. The fear is that if a CFL bulb breaks at home and isn't cleaned up properly, the mercury can harm small children and fetuses.

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Kern County Environmental Health said broken CFL bulb contents should be placed in a glass container. The next step is to take the broken CFL light bulb to the county collection facility on Standard Street. They said CFL bulbs should never just be put in the trash.

As CFLs continue to be developed, they are being done so with less and less mercury.

At the same time, CFL bulbs do not pose a significant health threat if they are cleaned up using gloves and are disposed of properly.

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