

ThermostatCare



UNIVERSAL WASTE REGULATIONS TRAINING

A Guideline For Your Staff to be Safe and Compliant

TACKLING THE PROBLEM TOGETHER

Did You Know?

Mercury thermostats are considered universal waste and are subject to certain compliance requirements.

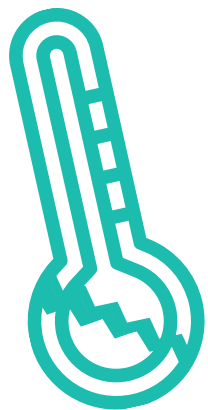
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We want to ensure our valued collection location partners across the state of California are fully educated, aware of their obligations under UWR (Universal Waste Regulations), and remain in compliance.

Please share the following requirements with your staff members.

WHY WE CARE



Did You Know?

Exposure to a broken mercury thermostat can quickly and easily cause harm those nearby.

Mercury thermostats, if not managed properly, can become a major health concern. Because of mercury's effects, these thermostats must be carefully removed and handled.



Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that can damage the brain and nervous system at very low levels.



Mercury can affect a developing fetus by stopping the brain and nervous system from properly functioning.



Mercury can cause lowered intelligence, impaired hearing and poor coordination in children.

UNIVERSAL WASTE REGULATIONS YOUR STAFF SHOULD KNOW



General Requirements

- Universal waste such as mercury-containing thermostats can be stored for up to **one year** only. However, **Thermostat Care requests returning within 6 months** for rebate participants to receive their \$30 per mercury thermostat incentive sooner, which is recommended based on feedback.
- Mercury thermostats are not required to be shipped by a hazardous waste transporter.
- Mercury thermostats must be managed in a way that prevents releases to the environment. For example, in a sealed bag inside a sealed bin or pail (which is achieved as a part of the Thermostat Care program).
- Mercury thermostats must be shipped to a permitted hazardous waste facility to be managed, such as the one Thermostat Care partners with and utilizes.
- It is prohibited to dispose of mercury thermostats, dilute, or treat in any way.

UNIVERSAL WASTE REGULATIONS

YOUR STAFF SHOULD KNOW



Requirements Continued

- You must disclose in all applicable business and use permitting applications that mercury is being handled (such as hazardous materials business plans).
- This training must be provided to new employees and redistributed annually.
- You must be knowledgeable about the location of the mercury thermostat container at this business. Location of this location's container: _____
- You must maintain a written record of all personnel who have received either initial or annual training, including names of personnel and date of training. Keep this record for at least 3 years.
- You must identify all hazardous waste generated and generator type. This can be achieved by completing a log of received mercury thermostats. A template is attached for ease of use. This log must be kept on site for 3 years.
- Thermostat Care provides a prepaid shipping label with FedEx Ground. Always ask the FedEx carrier for a "shipping receipt" whenever they pick up your container, which will note information regarding the container's contents. Locations must save the FedEx shipping receipts and keep a log onsite of collections that span 3 years.

UNIVERSAL WASTE REGULATIONS YOUR STAFF SHOULD KNOW



Requirements Continued

- Keep thermostats in the provided container and keep it closed when not adding thermostats.
- Each container includes a combined sticker that labels the container as “Universal Waste–Mercury–Containing Equipment” and provides space for the accumulation start date. The sticker must be affixed to the outside of the container immediately upon receiving it.
- When the first mercury thermostat is received at your location, write the drop-off date in the “Accumulation Start Date” area on the sticker.
- Ship the collection container within 6 months of the first thermostat regardless of how many thermostats are collected.
- You must ensure that hazardous waste is delivered to a person or facility authorized to manage it. For mercury thermostats, this is achieved by sending the thermostats to Thermostat Care.

Thermostat Care takes care of all shipping logistics to ensure general regulations are met. All we ask is that if your bin or pail contains mercury thermostats, you send it back within 6 months even if it is not full.

UNIVERSAL WASTE REGULATIONS YOUR STAFF SHOULD KNOW



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UNIVERSAL WASTE REGULATION TRAINING LOG

- Must keep this log onsite for 3 years

Location name/address:

Date of Training	Printed Name of Trainer/Manager	Printed Name & Signature of Trainee

MERCURY COLLECTION LOG

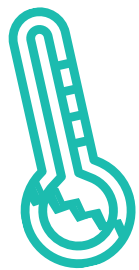
- Types of Generators:
 - Household (from a single detached residence or single unit)
 - CESQUWG (Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator, meaning generates <100 kg of hazardous and universal waste monthly).
- Use first row date to update accumulation start date sticker on your container.
- Must keep this log onsite for 3 years

Location name/address:

Date received	Description of mercury received	Type of generator	Staff member name/signature
Example 02/01/26	2 mercury thermostats	household generator	<i>Sabrina Baker</i>
Example 03/01/26	20 mercury thermostats	CESQUWG	<i>Sabrina Baker</i>

HOW TO HANDLE A MERCURY SPILL

BEFORE CLEANUP



Collection locations should not accept a broken thermostat. If a small amount of mercury spills while at your location, follow these instructions from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC):

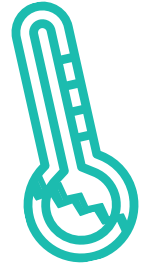
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- 1 Young children and pregnant women should leave the area during cleanup.
- 2 Open all doors and windows to ventilate the area for at least 15 minutes, and turn off your AC/fan/heater to prevent circulation of any mercury vapor.
- 3 Collect all materials needed for the cleanup. These include: Dust mask and gloves; Airtight container (e.g., glass container, resealable bag); Stiff paper such as index cards or cardboard; Duct tape, masking tape, or packing tape; Damp cloth; Marker to label the airtight container; Optional: Commercial mercury spill kit.

DO NOT VACUUM. Vacuuming is not recommended since it could spread mercury-containing powder or mercury vapor.

HOW TO HANDLE A MERCURY SPILL

DURING CLEANUP

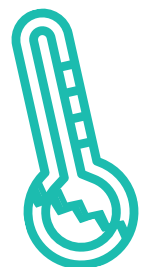


Instructions Continued

- 4 Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g., dust mask and gloves) to keep dust and glass from being inhaled or contacting your skin.
- 5 Carefully remove the larger pieces and place them in a secure, airtight container. Begin thoroughly collecting the smaller pieces and dust and put all material into the airtight container. Pat the area with the sticky side of duct, packing, or masking tape to pick up any remaining pieces.
- 6 Wipe the area with a damp cloth.
- 7 Put all waste and clean up materials in the airtight container and label it “Universal Waste – Mercury-Containing Equipment”. Avoid leaving any fragments or cleanup materials indoors.

HOW TO HANDLE A MERCURY SPILL

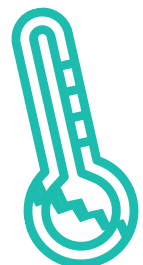
AFTER CLEANUP



Instructions Continued

- 8 Take the container for recycling at the household hazardous waste (HHW) facility nearest you.
- 9 If practical, continue to air out the room where the mercury-containing device was broken and leave the heating/air conditioning system shut off for several hours.
- 10 The next several times you vacuum, shut off the heating/air conditioning system if you have one, close the doors to other rooms, and open a window or door to the outside before vacuuming. Empty the vacuum after each use in this area.
- 11 If possible after vacuuming, keep the heating/air conditioning system shut off and the window or door to the outside open for several hours.

HOW TO HANDLE A MERCURY SPILL



Instructions Continued

These instructions are for small spills only. Thermostat Care recommends contacting a remediation company for larger spills. These instructions are subject to change by DTSC. Please visit the DTSC website for the most up-to-date instructions:

Visit the link below for more information.

<https://dtsc.ca.gov/toxics-in-products/products-and-devices-that-contain-mercury/>

Therm@statCare

Thank you for your continued partnership!

We appreciate your participation and efforts in helping to ensure your community remains safe and aware of mercury thermostats.

If you have any questions or need more information, please visit our website below.

ThermostatCare.org



Disclaimer: This training material does not constitute legal advice or replace any regulations or laws. Collection location should refer to relevant actual legislation and/or Health and Safety Codes.