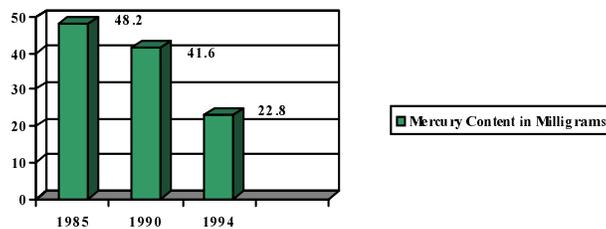


# Fluorescent Lamps

## Low Mercury

Fluorescent lamps, which contain mercury in order to operate, generally fail the Toxic Characteristics Leaching Procedure (TCLP). The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established TCLP in 1990 to measure substances that might dissolve into the ecosystem, including mercury. The EPA in July 1994 indicated that spent fluorescent lamps must be treated as hazardous waste if they failed the TCLP test. Spent lamps must be taken either to recycling facilities or disposed of at a hazardous waste site. Waste characterization utilizing TCLP is the responsibility of end users, and disposal regulations may differ from state-to-state.

For the past 15 years, there has been industrywide agreement on the importance of mercury reduction and some significant progress has been made. As you can see by the statistics (see graph) provided by The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), the industry average for mercury in a standard 4-foot, 40-watt T-12 lamp has been reduced from 48.2 milligrams in 1985 to 22.8 milligrams in 1994.



The presence of mercury is essential for fluorescent lamp operation, and although fluorescent lamps substantially reduce environmental pollution compared to less efficient sources, currently about 550 million 4 foot fluorescent lamps are disposed of every year in the United States alone. If all fluorescents used were low mercury content, approximately 9 tons of mercury would be removed from our waste stream annually.

Currently, there are three manufacturers of low mercury content lamps, **Phillips Lighting "ALTO"** Lamps **General Electric (GE) Lighting "ECOLUX"** lamps and **Osram Sylvania "ECOLOGIC"**. The manufacturers lamps are easily identified as being environmentally friendly and can be disposed of by normal trash disposal methods.

The **Phillips** lamps are identified by their "**Green**" end caps.



The **GE** and **Osram Sylvania** Lamps are identified by their "**Green wording**" on the tube.

