



## Universal Waste Information

Universal wastes are hazardous wastes that are subject to less stringent regulations. The universal waste regulations streamline collection and management requirements for certain widely-generated hazardous wastes to facilitate environmentally sound collection and proper recycling or treatment. Universal wastes include the following categories:

- Batteries
- Pesticides
- Mercury-containing equipment (e.g., thermostats) and lamps (e.g., fluorescent bulbs)

### Common Universal Wastes

- **Fluorescent Lamps** contain mercury and must be managed properly
  - Call the Safety and Environmental Division at x6-9233 to set up a collection area
  - Mark container with the notation "Universal Waste Mercury Lamps"
  - Date container when the first lamp is added
  - May collect lamps for up to one year
- **Batteries** other than alkaline contain material normally designated as hazardous waste and need special handling
  - Different battery types must be segregated (lead acid, NiCad, lithium, silver)
  - Mark container with the notation "Universal Waste Batteries"
  - Date the container when first battery is added
  - May collect for up to one year
  - There are battery recycling bins in some buildings for Alkaline, NiCad and Lithium batteries. For locations visit: [Battery Recycling Bin Locations](#)

There is an expenditure of government resources for battery disposal; therefore, only work-related batteries may be disposed of at GSFC. Check with your county of residence for disposal of personal batteries.

**The Safety and Environmental Division will collect and properly dispose of universal waste. Call us at x6-9233 or e-mail at [gsfc-hazwaste@lists.nasa.gov](mailto:gsfc-hazwaste@lists.nasa.gov).**