



# School Special Recycling: Guidelines & Options

*For the proper disposal of mercury-containing bulbs,  
electronic waste, paint, and batteries*



ENDING WASTE FOR GOOD™

*Updated August 2023*

# Table of Contents

<a href="#">Introduction and Contact Info</a> .....	1
<a href="#">Battery Recycling</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Bulb Recycling</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Electronics Recycling</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Paint Recycling</a> .....	5

Click on the hyper-linked section titles to be taken directly to information on recycling a particular material.



## Special Recycling Guidelines & Options for CVSWMD Member Schools

**Special Recycling, for certain landfill-banned materials,** was formerly available through the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC) in Barre. However, for the foreseeable future, due to flood damage incurred in July 2023, the ARCC will not be available for disposal of these items, which include:

- **Mercury-containing Bulbs**
- **Electronic Waste**
- **Batteries**
- **Paint**

What follows are guidelines and alternative options for proper disposal of these items.

**Note:** Not only is it illegal to dispose of these materials with trash, having them properly recycled benefits people and protects the environment that sustains us all.

### **For Assistance:**

Contact John Jose,  
School Zero Waste Coordinator  
[johnj@cvswmd.org](mailto:johnj@cvswmd.org) or 802-461-9246



# Batteries

## Disposal Options:

- Search by zip code to locate a drop-off site for your used batteries at [Call-2-Recycle](#) (or type [call2recycle.org/locator](http://call2recycle.org/locator) into your web browser)
- Register with Call2Recycle to participate in their free battery recycling program by contacting Tyrone Biljan at [tbiljan@call2recycle.org](mailto:tbiljan@call2recycle.org) (see additional info below)

## The **BENEFITS** of registering to participate in the Call2Recycle battery collection program:

**1. Cost & Convenience: Participating in this program is free.** There are no fees to ship out full boxes of batteries or to have replacement boxes delivered to your school. Additionally, having a collection box provides a focal point for school battery collection.

**2. Safety: Batteries, particularly lithium batteries, can present a serious fire hazard.** Proper handling and storage are essential to minimize the risk of a battery-generated fire (i.e. a battery “thermal event”). Through their battery recycling program, Call2Recycle offers free battery collection kits, which feature a **collection box with a flame-retardant liner**. Combined with proper taping/bagging of collected batteries and other safety measures, these lined collection boxes reduce the risk of a battery-generated thermal event occurring and spreading beyond the box, helping to protect your school building, students and adults present, as well as recycling facilities and the workers they employ.

**Note:** When placed in a school, a Call2Recycle battery collection box is intended for use by ***school staff only*** to recycle batteries from home and batteries used in school. This is **not an appropriate battery collection program for your student population to participate in**, due to the potential fire risk associated with students transporting batteries, particularly lithium batteries, from home to school. With this in mind, store your Call2Recycle box away from areas with student traffic.

To register your school as a Call2Recycle Collection Partner and to receive your first battery collection box, email Tyrone Biljan of Call2Recycle at [tbiljan@call2recycle.org](mailto:tbiljan@call2recycle.org)

**DANGER: Damaged or swollen batteries, particularly lithium batteries, present a fire risk. Cover any such batteries with sand or kitty litter in a bucket with a lid, store outdoors, and call CVSWMD at 802-229-9383 for further instructions.**

For additional information, view [this video by Call2Recycle](#) on safely collecting, storing, and shipping used batteries.



# Mercury-containing Bulbs

## Disposal Options:

- For locally purchased CFLs and fluorescent tube bulbs, the retailer your bulbs were purchased from should accept them back for disposal
- Enter your zip code to search [lamprecycle.org](http://lamprecycle.org) and find retail and municipal collection sites in your area that accept bulbs

**Note:** For either of the aforementioned options, it is recommended to call in advance to determine if the bulbs your school has to be recycled will be accepted and what fees may apply, particularly when considering a new collection location.

**Packaging Bulbs:** The original box bulbs came in can be used. For tube bulbs, any box used should accommodate the entire length of all bulbs placed inside. Boxes should be taped securely. If no appropriate boxes are available, CVSWMD may be able to provide bulb boxes, or arrange to have bulb boxes delivered to your school. Contact [johnj@cvswmd.org](mailto:johnj@cvswmd.org) to inquire about this option.

**For clean-up of broken bulbs,** see page 2 of the [Vermont DEC Environmental Fact Sheet for mercury-containing bulbs](#). This fact sheet also provides info on packaging, storing and transporting bulbs.

**Disposing of Broken Bulbs:** Once properly cleaned-up and contained, a broken bulb can be brought to a seasonal CVSWMD Household Hazardous Waste Collection event\* or disposed of at the Chittenden Environmental Depot at 802-863-0480 (call in advance).

\*IMPORTANT: Register at least two weeks in advance by contacting the CVSWMD Household Hazardous Waste Program Coordinator at [coordinator@cvswmd.org](mailto:coordinator@cvswmd.org).

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School Zero Waste Coordinator  
[johnj@cvswmd.org](mailto:johnj@cvswmd.org) or 802-461-9246



# Electronic Waste

## Disposal Options:

Visit the [VT E-cycles drop-off locations](#) page. Scroll down the tables to find scheduled, one-day collection events and registered facilities in your municipality, or nearby municipalities, that serve as e-waste collection sites.

## Landfill-banned electronic waste includes:

- Televisions
- Computers
- Monitors
- Desktop printers and computer peripherals (e.g.: computer speakers, mice, keyboards and modems)

**Note:** Along with other states, the state of Vermont requires manufacturers that sell the aforementioned types of e-waste to pay for the costs of recycling those electronics. As a result, for the disposal of these “**covered**” electronics, **there is no fee** to Vermont residents, **public schools**, small businesses (some limits may apply), and 501c3 nonprofits at state certified collection sites.

Visit the [Vermont E-cycles](#) page for additional information.

**Note:** It is recommended to call in advance to determine if the electronic waste your school has to be recycled will be accepted and what fees may apply, particularly when considering a new collection location.

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School Zero Waste Coordinator  
[johnj@cvswmd.org](mailto:johnj@cvswmd.org) or 802-461-9246



# Paint

## Disposal Options:

- Return paint remainders to the retailer your paint was originally purchased from
- Visit the [PaintCare Vermont page](#) of PaintCare to search for retailers that serve as drop-off sites for leftover paint (see additional info below)
- Bring to a CVSWMD Seasonal Hazardous Waste Collection Event (IMPORTANT: you must register at least two weeks in advance by contacting the CVSWMD Recycling and HHW Program Coordinator at [coordinator@cswmd.org](mailto:coordinator@cswmd.org))

All PaintCare sites accept up to 5 gallons per visit (some take more). Call ahead to confirm that a site can accept the type and amount of paint product your school has to recycle. PaintCare sites do not accept aerosols (spray paint), leaking, unlabeled, or empty containers.

For **detailed lists of products that can and cannot be recycled through the PaintCare program**, download the [Vermont Recycle With PaintCare](#) brochure.

Products that cannot be accepted by the PaintCare program may need to be disposed of as hazardous waste. For more information visit the [CVSWMD hazardous waste pages](#), or contact the CVSWMD Household Hazardous Waste Program Coordinator at [coordinator@cswmd.org](mailto:coordinator@cswmd.org).

**Note:** Empty plastic paint cans can be disposed of with trash. If the wire bale is removed, empty metal cans can go in with regular recycling.

For more information, visit the VT DEC [Proper Disposal & Recycling of Paint](#) page.

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