

## **Cleaning up broken energy saving light bulbs**

Energy saving light bulbs are often called CFLs, which stands for compact fluorescent lamps. These lamps contain a tiny amount of mercury, which although unlikely to do us any harm, should still be disposed of correctly when damaged.

### **How to deal with a broken CFL bulb**

First of all, vacate the room, keeping children and pets out of the affected area. Ventilate the room by opening a window for around 15 minutes before cleaning up the broken bulb. When picking up the broken pieces, wear rubber gloves and avoid using a vacuum cleaner.

On hard surfaces, sweep up the particles and glass fragments with stiff cardboard and place everything into a plastic bag. Wipe the area with a damp cloth, and when finished place the cloth into the bag. We'd recommend avoiding the use of household cleaning products. On carpets, use sticky tape to pick up small residual pieces or powder, and add them to the bag.

### **Disposing of the bulb**

Seal the bag, and place it into another bag to minimise the risk of cuts from the broken glass. Dispose by taking it to your local council recycling centre, where you'll find a special section for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulation items – also known as WEEE.