

## **Recycling of low energy bulbs (Compact Fluorescent Lamp integrated– CFLi)**

### **How to dispose a CFLi at its end of life**

The bulb may not be treated as household waste. Instead it shall be handed over to the applicable collection point in accordance with local environmental regulations for waste disposal. Please bring them back to your IKEA store for recycling or contact your local authority for further information about recycling possibilities.

### **What does it mean to me as a customer?**

By ensuring that the CFLi is disposed of and recycled correctly, you will help prevent negative consequences for the environment and human health. E.g. low energy bulbs contain mercury which can be harmful to humans and to the environment if released into the regular waste stream. Disposal must be carried out in accordance with local environmental regulations.

### **How will I know that the CFLi should not be thrown in the household garbage but be turned in for recycling?**

As all electrical and electronic products in the IKEA range the CFLi are marked with the crossed out wheeled waste bin symbol. This is a European symbol from the WEEE (Waste of Electric and Electronic Equipment) Directive and means that the product at the end of life should be handed in for recycling.



### **What happens with the CFLi that I have brought back to IKEA?**

The CFLi are taken care of by approved recyclers, experts in recycling processes. Generally about 80% of a CFLi is recycled for material recovery (metal, glass, mercury). Plastic constitute most of the remaining 20% and is generally used for energy production. A very small amount of residuals from the electronics, goes to deposit.

## **Breakage**

If a cold lamp is broken, small amount of mercury in the form of drops is spread in the room. The drops will reasonably rapidly fall to the floor together with the broken lamp parts, for example broken glass. If a warm lamp is broken, gaseous, metallic mercury is spread to the air of the room.

### **Recommendations when a cold lamp is broken**

Collect the lamp scrap, for example using a stiff piece of paper or cardboard, and put it in a glass jar with a lid. Then dry the floor with a (small) damp cloth. Put the cloth in the glass jar, seal it and label it, for example with the text "may contain mercury from a low energy lamp". Hand in the jar to a recycling facility intended for environmentally hazardous waste.

Do not use a vacuum cleaner. There is a risk of the vacuum cleaner further vapourising the mercury drops and spreading them in the air. This will increase the inhalation risk.

**Recommendations when a warm lamp is broken**

Close the doors to the room where a warm lamp has broken. Ventilate the room (open windows) and leave the room. The European Lamp Companies Federation (ELC) is recommending to leave the room for 20-30 minutes.

Collect the lamp scrap later, for example using a stiff piece of paper or cardboard, and clean the floor and other surfaces near the broken lamp with a (small) damp cloth. Put the lamp scrap and the cloth in a glass jar, seal it and label it for example with the text "may contain mercury from a low energy lamp". Hand in the jar to a recycling facility intended for environmentally hazardous waste.

Do not use a vacuum cleaner. There is a risk of the vacuum cleaner further vapourising the mercury drops and spreading them in the air. This will increase the inhalation risk.

*Source: Swedish Chemicals Agency*