

# Swansea University

## Waste Management Guidance Note WMGN16 Fluorescent Tubes

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<b>Waste Management Guidance Note WMGN16 Fluorescent Tubes</b>	
Location Generated	University wide
EWC	20-01-21*
Type	Hazardous
Disposal Method	Segregated for recycling
Bin/ Bag Type	Contractor collection

## Duty of Care Requirements

Any business or public body that generates waste materials should apply the waste hierarchy to all streams in order to minimise the amount of waste sent for disposal. In practice, this means ensuring all wastes are segregated at source and disposed of via the correct stream. General municipal waste should therefore be the last option for waste.

The University has committed to segregating its waste at source and focusing on separating key recycling streams; cans, paper, plastics, food and glass. Segregation at source improves recyclate quality and also adheres to the Waste Regulations (England and Wales) 2011. The Regulations stipulate that materials such as paper, metal, plastic and glass must be collected separately if it is necessary to encourage high quality of the recycling of the material

Classified as hazardous, it is a legal requirement for fluorescent tubes to be segregated from all other wastes, under the Hazardous Waste Regulation. Fluorescent tubes are classed as hazardous WEEE under Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations (WEEE) Regulations 2013 as fluorescent bulbs / tube lights contain mercury. Precautions must be taken when handling fluorescent bulbs / tube lights as fluorescent lamps contain mercury in both the lamp vapor and interior powder coating.

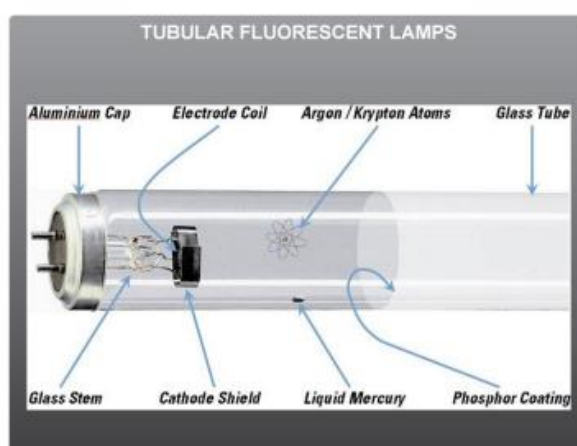


Fig 1: typical fluorescent tubular lamp (source: Lighting Industry Federation website)

Figure 1 – Internal component of a fluorescent tube

The University and its appointed contractors must segregate fluorescent tubes for recycling. Under no circumstance should fluorescent tubes be left inside or outside

unattended. No staff or student should remove fluorescent tubes from wall or ceiling fittings.

### **Disposal Instructions**

Staff and students are not permitted to remove fluorescent tubes, this must be done by appointed contractors. If a tube requires attention place a works order via the [Help Desk](#) portal.

**Waste fluorescent tubes must not be placed into any external waste or recycling bin around campus. Dedicated tube coffins are located in key compounds.**

### **Disposal Cost**

The disposal cost is factored into the University's waste management service provision; therefore there is no direct cost to individuals/Faculties/PSUs. However individuals can minimise cost and contribute the University's target to achieve 63% diversion rate away EFW or landfill by utilising the general waste stream only when required.

**For further guidance contact [Estates-Waste@Swansea.ac.uk](mailto:Estates-Waste@Swansea.ac.uk)**



**fluorescent  
tubes**