

Frequently Asked Questions about Universal Waste





- 1.) **What is Universal Waste and why can't I put it in the trash?** “Universal Waste” is actually a sub-category of hazardous waste. It is so common and prevalent in our society that it is considered “universal” – or in pretty much every household. Universal Wastes contain harmful chemicals and products that, if put in the trash, may harm people or the environment.























- 2.) **What are common types of Universal Waste?** Household batteries (alkaline, Lithium-ion, NiCad, Silver Oxide, NiMH, button batteries, etc. – see photos), Fluorescent Light Tubes (includes compact fluorescents, sodium vapor, mercury vapor, metal halide and high pressure sodium, etc. – see photos), mercury thermostats, mercury switches, household electronics, and non-empty aerosol cans.

- 3.) **What happens if I throw Universal Waste in the garbage?** Like used motor oil and paint, Universal Waste is a kind of hazardous waste. It is now illegal to dispose of hazardous waste and Universal Waste in the State of California. If you throw it in the trash, you put the solid waste employee's health at risk, and possibly your own. Eventually, chemicals and heavy metals in illegally disposed Universal Waste can be released into the environment and contaminate our air, water and the food we eat.

- 4.) **How do I get rid of Universal Waste?** The City of Redding operates a Household Hazardous Waste facility at the Transfer Station located at 2255 Abernathy Lane in Redding. The facility is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. We take hazardous waste and Universal Waste from households in Shasta County. Currently, there is no fee to dispose of Universal Waste, although some other hazardous waste types do have a fee. Check out our fee schedule at www.ci.redding.ca.us/solwaste/hhwprice.htm. Shasta County also holds periodic hazardous waste drop-off events. For a schedule of upcoming events, contact the Shasta County Resource Management Department at 225-5789.

- 5.) **I have a business in Shasta County that generates Universal Waste. What do I do?** Currently, the City of Redding does not take hazardous waste or Universal Waste from businesses. Shasta County does serve businesses that generate small quantities of hazardous waste and Universal Waste at their periodic collection events. You should contact the Shasta County Department of Resource Management at the phone number listed above. Otherwise, contact a hazardous waste disposal contractor or a business that sells the type of product that you are trying to get rid of. Often times, they also offer disposal options. For example, lighting contractors may have disposal programs for used fluorescent light tubes.

Common Universal Waste Batteries, Shapes and Sizes	
 <p>9 Volt (*alkaline, NiMH, NiCd and Lithium)</p>	 <p>AA, AAA, and AAAA</p>
 <p>C, Sub-C, and D</p>	 <p>3volts, 6volts, 9volts (mostly Lithium)</p>

 <p>Buttons (mostly Lithium, hearing aids)</p>	 <p>Silver Oxide (Watches, Calculators)</p>
 <p>Coins (mostly lithium, electronics)</p>	 <p>Camera and Camcorders (NiMH)</p>
 <p>Cellphones (NiMH, NiCd), camcorder batteries</p>	 <p>Lantern (mostly alkaline)</p>
<p>Fluorescent Bulbs and Tubes</p>	
 <p>Compact Fluorescent Screw-in</p>	 <p>Compact Fluorescent Plug-in</p>
 <p>Compact Fluorescent Flood</p>	 <p>Compact Fluorescent Dimmable</p>
 <p>GE 2D</p>	 <p>Circline</p>
 <p>T2 - T12</p>	 <p>U-Bend</p>
 <p>Tube Guards to prevent breakage</p>	 <p>Electronic Ballast</p>
 <p>Linkable</p>	 <p>Germicidal</p>
 <p>High Pressure Sodium</p>	 <p>Metal Halide</p>
 <p>Mercury Vapor</p>	 <p>High Pressure Sodium and Metal Halide Ballasts</p>

