



## Universal Waste Management & Disposal

**“Universal waste” is a legal classification for some common hazardous substances that most businesses generate, usually in medium to large volumes. These wastes exhibit only low-level hazards and therefore have less stringent restrictions and regulations so they can be managed easily. Universal Wastes in dental offices may include products such as batteries, computers, and fluorescent lighting. Please read the information below to dispose of these wastes properly.**



### Computers

San Francisco small businesses can drop off unwanted computers at the following locations. Some fees apply.

- San Francisco Recycling & Disposal, Inc: (415) 330-1400
- Mon-Fri 7am-6pm, Sat-Sun 8am-4pm. Call for directions and program details.
- HMR: (415) 647-6071
- Alameda County Computer Recycling Center: (510) 434-1325
- AERC: (800) 628-3675

There are other recyclers and charitable organizations that may also take unwanted computers. View [www.sfenvironment.org](http://www.sfenvironment.org) for more information.

### Batteries

**Lead-Acid** batteries that power backup systems and emergency lights can be recycled through the same companies that pick up and recycle car batteries. This service is usually free. If you drop them off yourself, they will usually pay you about \$1.00 per battery.

**Rechargeable** batteries or Nickel-Cadmium (Ni-Cads) are also easy to recycle. Fees are based on weight.

**Alkaline or Zinc-Carbon** batteries, often called consumer, household, or flashlight batteries, can also be recycled. Fees are also based on weight.



Battery recycling centers:

- Battery Systems – (415) 826-2600,
- SF Recycling and Disposal, Inc. – (415) 330-1425
- Morgan Environmental – (510) 267-0134

Please visit [www.sfenvironment.org](http://www.sfenvironment.org) for a more complete list.

### Fluorescent Lamps & Ballasts

Spent fluorescent tubes are 100 percent recyclable. Most tubes are hazardous because they contain mercury compounds. If tubes are thrown in the trash, they can break and expose your employees, janitors, the public, and garbage collection workers to mercury vapors.

For more information please visit [SFEnvironment.com](http://SFEnvironment.com) or call (415) 355-3700.

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Recycling companies crush the tubes, separate the glass, aluminum, and mercury for recycling. They charge about 10 cents per linear foot and give discounts for large quantities

Fluorescent light fixtures have a heavy box-like component called the "ballast," which contains a small canister of oil. In older fixtures the oil contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a class of very toxic chemicals.

When replacing light fixtures, be sure to look for labels on the ballasts. If the label says "Contains No PCBs" they are not hazardous. If there is no label or the label DOES NOT say "Contains No PCBs" you must assume that they contain PCBs and manage them as hazardous waste. There are a few companies that dismantle the ballasts, incinerate the oil, and recycle the rest of the parts.

- AERC: (800) 628-3675
- Morgan Environmental: (510) 267-0134
- Recycling West: (510) 782-8982

For more information on purchasing energy efficient lighting or managing lighting waste, please visit [www.sfenvironment.com](http://www.sfenvironment.com) or call (415) 355-3700.

Note: The companies listed in this document are for your convenience. Inclusion does not imply an endorsement from the City and County of San Francisco, and the list may not represent a complete list of companies providing these services.

