

## **MERCURY-CONTAINING DEVICES AND EQUIPMENT** **WASTE ACCUMULATION AREA**

Mercury-containing devices such as thermostats, thermometers, barometers, mercury switches, and certain types of meters and gauges that have elemental mercury in ampules or otherwise enclosed so that they can be managed intact, are subject to the Universal Waste Regulations rather than full hazardous waste regulation as long as they are properly recycled.

### **GENERAL RULES:**

Make sure that all containers are in good condition and able to close properly before adding any materials to them.

Keep each container closed at all times after the first material has been added to it.

Keep a clean work area and clean up spills promptly when they occur.

### **PACKAGING:**

Use boxes lined with plastic or plastic buckets or drums provided by EHS.

Make sure the container can close or has a lid.

If the device or equipment is glass, it must be cushioned enough to prevent breakage.

### **LABELING:**

Make sure that all labels and markings from previous users have been removed from containers or marked out completely.

Make sure each container is labeled with the words “**Universal Waste Bulbs**” and the date as soon as the first bulb is added to the container.

### **ACCUMULATION TIME LIMIT:**

Containers of mercury-containing devices and equipment being managed as Universal Waste must be disposed within 1 year from the time the first item is added. Because some time is needed to prepare and arrange offsite shipments, EHS requires that the containers be removed from accumulation areas within 9 months of their initial opening.

Once a container is full or has been open for 9 months, request a pickup using the link at [www.ehs.iu.edu](http://www.ehs.iu.edu).

### **BROKEN OR LEAKING DEVICES/EQUIPMENT:**

If a device or piece of equipment is leaking or broken then the device or equipment and any spill cleanup debris must be handled as hazardous waste. Place the device or equipment and debris into a closed box lined with plastic, or a bucket or drum provided by EHS, and follow the guidelines for packaging and labeling hazardous waste outlined in Section 7 of the Hazardous Waste Management Guide located on [www.ehs.iu.edu](http://www.ehs.iu.edu). Request a waste pickup by clicking on the pickup request link on the EHS website.

*\* For help cleaning up a mercury spill, contact EHS at 812-855-2004.*