



Answers to Questions About TRC and Recycling Wall-Mounted Mercury Thermostats

How are the thermostats collected?

Wholesalers and HHW facilities place recycling bins in a convenient spot at each of their various locations. Contractors collect out-of-service mercury thermostats through their normal business and can drop them off for collection at either type of location; homeowners can do so at HHW facilities.

Will this program cost anything?

There is a one-time fee of \$25 US for each collection bin. The shipping costs from the wholesaler to the Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC) as well as the cost of mercury recycling are paid by the TRC. When a wholesaler or HHW site returns a full collection container, the TRC sends a replacement bin, with another mailing label, free of charge.

Should I accept loose mercury bulbs, liquid mercury, or thermostats that are leaking mercury?

No. It is important to return the entire thermostat since it provides the protection for the mercury bulb during shipment. Contact your local waste management authorities for proper disposal of these items.

Will there be any paperwork or administration involved?

You will only need to place the Authorized Return Service (ARS) label on the collection container so that the carrier will take the full collection container to the TRC.

What is the TRC?

The Thermostat Recycling Corporation is a not-for-profit corporation established by Honeywell, White-Rodgers, and General Electric to operate the thermostat-recycling program.

What thermostats are included?

The program will accept wall-mounted mercury thermostats. {Note: ME is currently limited to brands owned by GE, Honeywell, White-Rodgers, and Nordyne.}

What will happen to the old thermostats?

The mercury switches will be removed from the returned thermostats. Those switches are then sent to another facility that removes and purifies the mercury for reuse.

How does this recycling program affect the thermostats sent in under warranty?

The recycling program and the warranty program are entirely separate programs. There will be no change to any manufacturers warranty program. Do not include in-warranty thermostats in the recycling containers. You will not receive warranty credit if you do so. Follow each manufacturers current warranty policy.

What about other mercury-containing products, such as batteries and fluorescent lights?

This program is only for wall-mounted mercury switch thermostats. Do NOT return batteries, fluorescent lights, or any other products containing mercury. Contact your local waste management authorities for the proper disposal of these items.

What about homeowners who remove an old thermostat?

The TRC expanded the program to include HHW facilities for the purpose of providing a recycling option to homeowners. Wholesalers are also free, and encouraged, to accept thermostats from homeowners.

What should I use to store the used thermostats when my collection container is being processed?

If you do not have a second container, you should use a plastic 5-gallon bucket with a cover until you receive a replacement bin. You must clearly label the container "Used Mercury Thermostats."

Are there any record keeping requirements for participating in the recycling program?

There are no specific requirements but you may want to maintain a file of all Authorized Return Service tracking numbers for reference.

Who should I contact for questions?

Please contact the TRC at 1-800-238-8192. Visit on the Web at WWW.NEMA.ORG/TRC