

QUICK TIPS: Mercury-Containing Equipment

Mercury-containing equipment means a device or part of a device (ex. thermostats, thermometers, barometers, manometers, mercury switches, but excluding batteries and lamps) that contains elemental mercury integral to its function.

NYU collects and recycles mercury-containing equipment as **Universal Waste**.



Disposal Guideline

- Collect equipment in a leak-proof closeable container (ex. 1-gallon mayo jar or 5-gallon bucket). Containers should remain closed unless actively adding waste.
- This container should only be used for mercury-containing equipment. **DO NOT** use this container for other items meant for disposal.
- A label with the words **“Universal Waste”** must be affixed to the container. The accumulation start date must be clearly marked. Labels and containers can be obtained through the Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) website.
- Broken or leaking mercury-containing equipment is considered **“Hazardous Waste”** and must be collected as such. The broken or leaking equipment must be collected in a separate container and labeled with an appropriate hazardous waste label. Labels can be obtained through the EHS website.
- EHS must be notified when the container is full or within one year of the accumulation date. Pickups occur on the first Tuesday of every month.

Reminders

- The accumulation date is the date in which the first mercury-containing device is added to the container. This date should be present on all labels.
- All containers must be disposed of within one year of the accumulation start date.
- A mercury spill kit should be used to handle any spills or leaks involving mercury-containing equipment.

**Need supplies, labels, or a
waste pick up?
Have other questions?
Visit the EHS website**

