



TRC Frequently Asked Questions

How are the thermostats collected?

Wholesalers and HHW facilities place recycling bins in a convenient spot at each of their various locations. Retailers collect thermostats directly from customers. Contractors and homeowners collect out-of-use mercury thermostats through their normal business and can drop them off for collection at any location.

Will this program cost anything?

There is a one-time participation fee. It is \$25 for each collection bin requested. The shipping costs from the collection site to the Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC) as well as the cost of mercury recycling are paid by TRC. When a participating site returns a full collection container, 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, including its cover, 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?

The bin should be returned at least once in a calendar year regardless of the quantity of thermostats collected. 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 TRC.

What is TRC?

The Thermostat Recycling Corporation is a not-for-profit corporation established by Honeywell, White-Rodgers, and General Electric to collect and properly dispose end-of-use mercury-containing thermostats. TRC now represents over two-thirds of the approximately 30 manufacturers that historically distributed mercury-containing thermostats

What thermostats are included?

The program will accept any brand of mercury-containing thermostat. Thermostats must be whole, with the cover attached.

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

The recycling program and warranty programs are separate. 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 mercury-switch thermostats. **DO NOT RETURN BATTERIES, FLUORESCENT LIGHTS, OR ANY OTHER PRODUCTS CONTAINING MERCURY.** Failure to follow this policy may result in the termination of your location's participation in the program. 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 and retailers for the purpose of providing a recycling option to homeowners. Wholesalers are also free, and strongly 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?

TRC has no specific requirements, but maintain a file of all Authorized Return Service tracking numbers for reference in the event a bin is lost/misplaced during transport or processing.

Who should I contact for questions?

Please contact the TRC at 1-800-238-8192. Visit TRC on the web at www.thermostat-recycle.org