



# SWANCC Mercury Thermometer Recycling Program FAQs



## **Why is SWANCC sponsoring a Mercury Thermometer Exchange Program?**

Mercury poses health risks to humans, especially young children and animals, depending on how much has entered the body, how it entered the body, how long one has been exposed to it, and how the body responds to the mercury. So, to reduce health issues for people, animals and our environment associated with mercury poisoning or contamination, products should be replaced with safer alternatives and recycled instead of landfilled.

## **Who is allowed to participate?**

Residents from any SWANCC community can participate and only residentially-generated materials will be accepted – which means thermometers, wall switches and thermostats must come from a household. Please check IDs for proof of residency. **Do Not Accept mercury-containing items from municipalities, businesses, schools and institutions.** Visit SWANCC's *Green Pages Reuse and Recycling Directory* at [swancc.org](http://swancc.org) for contractors to assist with commercial recycling needs.!

## **What type of mercury-containing products can be recycled in SWANCC's program?**

Any thermometer, wall switch or thermostat that contains mercury is accepted. **Put mercury-containing items in the provided 5-gallon secured container immediately – do not leave on a desk or counter - EVER!**

## **What happens if a resident brings in a broken thermometer?**

Broken thermometer should be placed in a plastic Zip Lock baggie prior to being put in the secured container. As an extra safety measure, staff should wash their hands after handling any mercury-containing items.

## **How will the materials get picked up?**

SWANCC staff will work with each community's program coordinator to work out a monthly or bi-monthly pick-up schedule. If for some reason a special pick-up is needed, contact Mike Witkowski at [mwitkowski@everlights.com](mailto:mwitkowski@everlights.com) or (773) 734-9873, extension 203.

## **What should I do if there is a spill associated with SWANCC's program?**

R3 Environmental is a hazardous waste management company that will respond to an emergency at (800) 969-9052, extension 206. Any emergency situation that requires the assistance of R3 Environment needs to be reported to SWANCC immediately.

## **Contact Information:**

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