

### **What to do when a fluorescent tube breaks in your home:**

1. **Immediately ventilate** the area to outside air
2. Remove large pieces of the tube with a broom and dustpan
3. If on a solid surface: sweep up phosphor powder and small pieces of glass
4. If on a carpet: **do not use a vacuum sweeper**, as it will efficiently disperse the mercury in the broken tube! If possible, use “flowers of sulfur” [obtain from a drugstore] to thoroughly dust the area of the carpet—this will react with any mercury present and convert it into a non-volatile chemical compound
5. Gather all waste, place it in an air-tight container [zippered plastic bag] and place it in the trash

### **What to do when a fluorescent tube breaks in your place of work:**

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5. Gather all waste, place it in an air-tight container [zippered plastic bag] and place with other hazardous waste for proper disposal