



TRC Frequently Asked Questions

How are the thermostats collected?

TRC collects thermostats at HVAC wholesalers, thermostat retailers, and HHW. TRC strongly encourages HHW facilities to 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?

For local governments in California there is no cost. For other collection locations there is a one-time nominal participation fee. The shipping costs from the collection site to the 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. **DO NOT PLACE OR SHIP ANY OTHER MERCURY PRODUCT OR A LEAKING ITEM IN YOUR COLLECTION CONTAINER.**

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 and funded by thermostat manufacturers to collect and properly dispose end-of-use mercury-containing thermostats. TRC represents nearly 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.

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.

What about businesses who remove old thermostats?

TRC will accept thermostats from any source. Contractors have the option to dispose thermostats at HVAC wholesalers throughout California.

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