

1300 North 17th Street • Suite 1752 • Arlington, VA 22209



[www.thermostat-recycle.org](http://www.thermostat-recycle.org)

# Mercury-Switch Thermostat Recycling

Thermostat Recycling Corporation  
Presented by  
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## About the Thermostat Recycling Corporation—

- Voluntarily founded 11 years ago by Honeywell, White-Rodgers, and General Electric.
- Over 95% of funding in 2009 from 25 members; all of whom historically manufactured mercury thermostats.
- TRC collects and recycles all brands of waste mercury thermostats.
- Only requirement is thermostats be whole, with cover.
- To date, TRC has collected over 820,000 thermostats diverting over 3.7 tons of mercury from solid waste since its inception.



## TIME LINE

- 1995 - Hg-content products are covered Federally under the Universal Waste Rule
- 1998– Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC) initiated in 9 states (Great Lakes and Florida)
- 2001– TRC program goes national with all voluntary program wholesaler participation.
- 2006– TRC expanded program to include HHW.
- 2006– First law thermostat recycling law passed in Maine.
- 2008– TRC supported thermostat recycling legislation passed in California, Iowa, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania
- 2008 – 2009 – TRC membership grows from 4 to 25 members
- 2009- TRC supported bills in MT and TX. MT bill signed into law.
- To Date - Legislated disposal bans in effect in CA, CT, FL, IA, IL, MA, ME, NH, NY, PA, RI, VT



## How the Program Works—

- Reverse distribution system. Primarily TRC provides collection containers to HVAC wholesalers.
- HVAC contractors return waste thermostats when they buy parts/supplies.
- TRC absorbs all costs to ship and process thermostats.



## **Additional Collection Sites**

- HVAC Contactors—contracting businesses with 7 or more technicians or those that serve rural communities.
- Household Hazardous Waste—local government run hazardous waste collection programs.
- Retail—generally independent hardware stores that sell thermostats.



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### TRC Process Flow



Recycling bin order form



Bins ready to send to Collection Points (HHW, Contractor or Distributor)



Examples of thermostats with Hg



Thermostats collected and ready to be sent to the TRC



Bin received at the TRC



Thermostat received and ready for Hg ampoule removal



Ampoule with Hg removed from T'stat



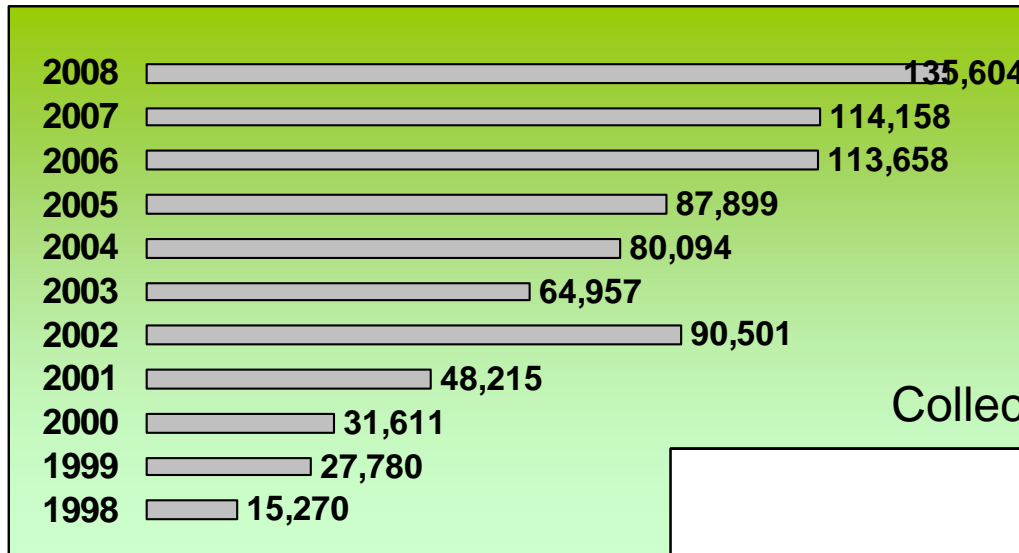
Barrel of Ampoules ready to be sent to recycler



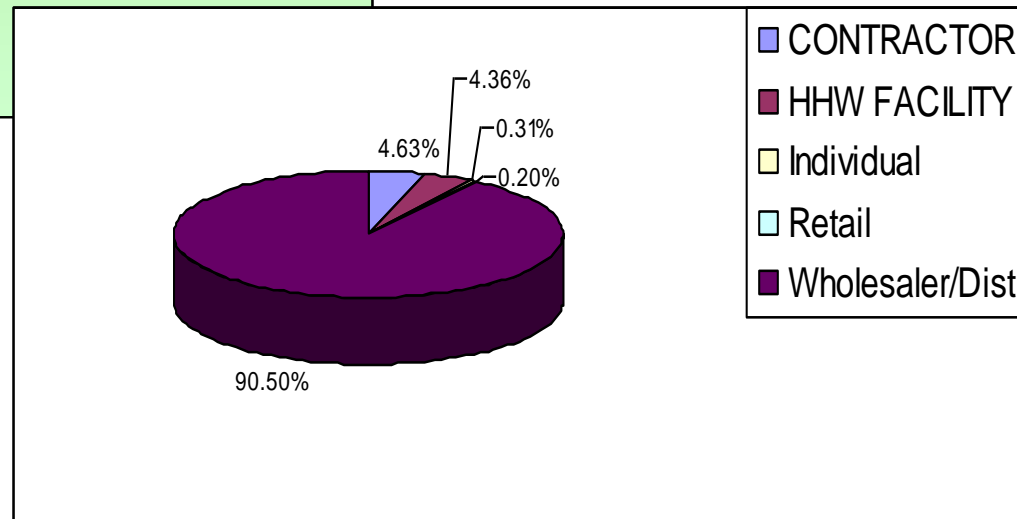
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## Historical Collections



## Collections by location type





## Overview of the Challenge

- Each thermostat averages 3 grams of mercury.
- One of the easiest sources of mercury in household waste to identify and target.
- Number being removed annually unknown.
- Mostly a “trade” issue; over 90% of new thermostats sold into wholesale market.
- Difficulty signing up new wholesalers as collection points and ensuring comprehensive government HHW participation



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# Not Recycling? Mercury Thermostats!

Then the job isn't complete...

It's easy, it's free, and it's  
good for the environment

*Ask your local HVAC  
Wholesaler about  
Mercury Thermostat  
Recycling*

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[www.thermostat-recycle.org](http://www.thermostat-recycle.org)  
(or call toll-free 800-238-8192)



## What you can do to help...

- Contact your local HVAC wholesalers and encourage their participation as a collection site.
  - If they have questions on their role in the program they can contact DTSC Regulatory Assistance at 1(800)728-6942 or see [http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Mercury\\_Therm\\_Act.cfm](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Mercury_Therm_Act.cfm)
- Ensure your local government HHW is a part of the program and promoting proper collection and recycling of waste mercury thermostats
- Post recycle instructions for waste mercury thermostats at your local landfills



And...

- Encourage your local radio station to run a PSA which can be downloaded at: <http://www.thermostat-recycle.org/support>.
- Tell your friends, colleagues, business associates, trade groups and your family! Awareness is the key driver for increased collections!
- For more information go to [www.thermostat-recycle.org](http://www.thermostat-recycle.org) or call 1-800-238-8192.