

Thermostats

The Problem

Mercury thermostats can be a major source of mercury contamination in the environment. Mercury is a dangerous neurotoxin. It does not break down in the environment and it bioaccumulates in the tissues of fish, which are then consumed by people. One gram of mercury can contaminate a 20-acre lake. Mercury thermostats, each containing about 3 grams of mercury, have been phased out in California but are still found in many homes and businesses.

The Solution

In 2008, CPSC and the California Sierra Club co-sponsored [AB 2347, the Mercury Thermostat Collection Act](#). This was the first extended producer responsibility bill to become law in California. The nonprofit [Thermostat Recycling Corporation](#) (TRC) was formed to serve as the stewardship organization and to develop a convenient take-back program. Under the law, heating and air conditioning (HVAC) wholesalers must accept mercury thermostats from the public free-of-charge, and contractors who remove mercury thermostats must recycle them. For a free downloadable brochure [click here](#).



Recycling mercury thermostats protects your local environment from dangerous mercury contamination. Ensure a cleaner environment for you and your neighbors and drop off your mercury thermostat at your local HHW where it can be recycled today! You may even qualify for a \$5 rebate from Thermostat Recycling Corporation. Click [here](#) to see if you qualify.

In February 2013, CPSC and our partner organizations submitted [comments](#) on the proposed regulations to implement the new law, which were adopted in May 2013. CPSC and our allies issued this [press release](#) on the [final rulemaking](#).

Safely Dispose of Your Mercury Thermostats

- [ThermostatCare](#) – Statewide
- [Earth 911](#) – Nationwide

Research & Relevant Articles

- [Tempers Are Rising about Mercury](#) – Crosslands Bulletin, 4/14/13
- [CA Mercury Thermostat Law Now in Effect](#) – Thermostat Recycling Corporation Press Release, 7/8/09
- [Manufacturers Implement Mercury Thermostat Recycling Program in CA](#) – Thermostat Recycling Corp, 6/18/09

Links

- [DTSC Mercury Thermostat Webpage](#)
- [Product Stewardship Institute: Thermostats](#)



- [Thermostat Recycling Corporation \(TRC\)](#)

Pictured below:

AB 2347 press conference at the Palo Alto Water Treatment Facility, October 20, 2008;
Pictured (Left to right): Barbara Spector, Mayor of Los Gatos; Rick Brauch, Dept. of Toxic Substances Control; Heidi Sanborn, CPSC; Ira Ruskin, Assemblymember and Author of AB 2347; Bill Magavern, Sierra Club California; Pat Foster, Mayor of East Palo Alto; Larry Klein, Mayor of Palo Alto; Samantha Omev, Honeywell



1. Save energy
2. Protect the environment

Two very good reasons why it may be time to replace your mercury thermostat.

Round, square, rectangular. Thermostats come in many shapes and sizes. And if the one you have has a lever or a dial and is more than 10 years old, it's time for an upgrade. Newer programmable thermostats can help you save energy and won't contain mercury.

And if you or your contractor replaces a thermostat that contains mercury, recycle it. Not only is it a good idea, it's California law. Go to thermostat-recycle.org to find out who in your area collects and recycles old thermostats.

Thermostat Recycling CORPORATION
an industry-funded non-profit
thermostat-recycle.org

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY
REMOVE, REPLACE AND RECYCLE
YOUR OLD THERMOSTAT.

Recycle **THIS.**

Thermostat Recycling CORPORATION

#RECYCLETHIS THERMOSTAT-RECYCLE.ORG