

## Mercury

Decatur obtained a Streamlined Mercury Variance July 1, 2013 and implemented a Pollutant Minimization Program Plan in regards to reducing mercury in wastewater.

The Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management has been working with wastewater treatment plants to increase awareness of potential mercury sources in Indiana communities. Mercury poisoning can attack the central nervous system in humans, impairing our sight, hearing and the way we function. Women of child-bearing age and children, especially those under six, are most susceptible.

The following household items contain mercury, which can be hazardous if misused or improperly disposed of: fever thermometers (w/ silver colored liquid inside), antiseptic products containing thimerosal or merbromin, fluorescent lights and Mercury vapor bulbs (neon bulbs), dial (not digital) thermostats, blue-lit automotive headlamps, clothes irons with tilt or automatic shut-off, pilot light sensors in gas appliances (stoves, clothes dryers, furnaces, water heaters, space heaters), switches and relays (in some chest freezers, pre-1972 washing machines, sump pumps, electric space heaters, vehicles and farm equipment), barometers and blood pressure gauges with silver liquid inside, pre-1990 latex paint and some oil-based paint, mercuric oxide and some alkaline batteries, and vintage toy drawing screens / maze games.

Items containing mercury should never be broken open, and mercury should never be put in the trash, burned or poured down the drain.

Items containing mercury should be taken to the Adams County Solid Waste District to be safely recycled.

Adams County Solid Waste Management District  
3775 N 200 E  
Decatur, IN 46733  
Phone (260) 724-9971  
For more information, visit <http://adamscountyswmd.com>