

Hazardous Hand-Me-Downs

Avoid Accepting Mercury Items!

Did you know mercury can be hiding in antique items?

Because of its unique properties, mercury was used in thermometers, barometers, mirrors, clocks, and other items! Mercury is a toxic element and can lead to expensive environmental and health issues if spilled.

The Mercury Management Act limits the sale and prohibits disposal of liquid mercury and mercury-containing products in Massachusetts.

Mercury can be found in items regardless of when they were manufactured. There are additional restrictions on the sale of mercury-added antique barometers, thermometers, and clocks manufactured after 1955 (some exemptions exist)

The cost to your business and the cost to the environment might not be worth accepting these potentially hazardous materials.

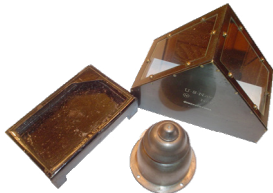
Items that may contain mercury:

Thermostats



Artificial Horizon

Source: Elemental Services & Consulting Inc. (ESCO)



Jars of Liquid Mercury



Pendulum Clocks



Barometers



Measuring Devices

Source: Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA)



Tilt Switches



Fishing Lures



Pipe Organ Manometers

Source: Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA)



Thermometers

Identify additional items: www.newmoa.org/prevention/mercury/projects/legacy

How to properly manage mercury items:

- Contact your town for household hazardous waste events or drop offs
 - Refer to the MassDEP's Mercury Disposal Map:
maps.env.state.ma.us/dep/arcgis/js/templates/SafeMercuryDisposal
- For assistance with disposal outlets, dial the MassDEP Mercury Hotline at: (866) 9-MERCURY

If a mercury spill does occur, follow the MassDEP's guide on safely cleaning it up: mass.gov/guides/massdep-mercury-information