



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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MERCURY THERMOSTAT RECYCLING AVAILABLE

RALEIGH—The N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance announced this week a new program that encourages recycling of mercury-containing thermostats rather than disposing of them in landfills.

The program aims to reduce the amount of mercury that is released into the environment. Mercury-containing thermostats are a safety hazard and improper handling of these devices can contaminate surface water and endanger peoples' health. Children are especially susceptible to mercury's toxic effects.

The program is urging heating, ventilating and air conditioning wholesalers to recycle thermostats that contain mercury. The Thermostat Recycling Corporation facilitates collection by heating, ventilating and air conditioning wholesalers from contractors of all brands of used, wall-mounted mercury switch thermostats. HVAC contractors will be able to make a positive impact on the environment by recycling these thermostats.

Participating wholesalers in the Thermostat Recycling Corporation in North Carolina are: R.E. Michael Company, statewide; Johnstone Supply in Fayetteville and Jacksonville; C.C. Dickson in New Bern and Hickory; and Lennox Industries in Charlotte. The Thermostat Recycling Corporation is a not-for-profit corporation started by three National Electrical Manufacturers Association member companies.

The thermostat collection service is free, and mercury from recycled thermostats can be reprocessed for safer applications.

For additional information, contact the Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance at (919) 715-6500 or check out the Web page, <http://www.p2pays.org/mercury/>. You may also visit the Web site for the National Electrical Manufacturers Association at: <http://www.nema.org/gov/ehs/trc/>.

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