

City of St. Joseph



Health Department
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

P R E S S R E L E A S E

City of St. Joseph Health Department
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February 2, 2012

City of St. Joseph Health Department Named as Mercury Collection Site by Missouri Department of Natural Resources

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MO DNR) is launching a mercury collection effort to rid homes of mercury throughout Missouri. In St. Joseph, the City of St. Joseph Health Department has been identified as the collection site. The MO DNR, working with public safety organizations and county health offices throughout the state, is providing mercury collection containers for various communities statewide.

Any private citizen or non-profit agency can dispose of mercury-containing instruments, like thermometers, blood pressure cuffs, thermostats or switches, at the health department. The City of St. Joseph Health Department hours of operation for mercury drop-off are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, by appointment only. Call 816-271-4636 to schedule an appointment time to bring your mercury recyclables in. Never leave items if the facility is closed.

The program does not include the collection of compact fluorescent bulbs. A fact sheet detailing the proper disposal of CFL's is available on the department's Web site:

<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/pubs/pub2273.pdf>.

The department is asking that anyone seeking to dispose of items at these sites first secure the item in two zip top bags and then place them in a sealed container (such as a coffee can or plastic margarine tub). The extra packaging is required to prevent the release of mercury if the item breaks while being transported. Items should remain outside. A staff member will assist you with disposal of the items outside of the building at your designated collection time.

The mercury round-up begins Monday, February 6th and will end Thursday, May 31. The Department of Natural Resources will pick up the collected items and transport them to Jefferson City. They will be picked up by a state contractor, who will recycle what can be recycled and properly dispose of the rest.

Anyone who is uncomfortable with transporting mercury instruments, or who has large quantities of mercury, can contact the department's spill line at 573-634-2436 to arrange to have items picked up.

More information about the State's Mercury Collection program is available, including a statewide list of drop off sites, at <http://www.dnr.mo.gov> or contact the St. Joseph Health Department Environmental staff at (816) 271-4636.

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