

Farmingdale State College is 'Mercury-Free'

Mercury and mercury-containing devices have historically been used in laboratories and shops to measure temperature, pressure, liquid density, and humidity. Other common sources of mercury include fluorescent bulbs, older thermostats, and some electric switches.

To minimize health and environmental risks, items containing mercury must be handled safely and disposed of properly when damaged or no longer in use. Improper handling, breakages, and spills may result in avoidable exposures and/or require extensive and costly cleanup efforts.

It is therefore the policy of Farmingdale State College (FSC) to reduce health risks and prevent environmental pollution from elemental mercury by implementing a mercury-free purchase policy. Devices containing mercury will no longer be purchased or otherwise acquired. FSC will also eliminate elemental mercury and mercury containing devices wherever possible and will ensure proper disposal. For devices and apparatus' currently in use, the College encourages replacement with non-mercury containing devices. The Environmental Health and Safety Office can be consulted for assistance in identifying and/or obtaining devices that are mercury-free in exchange for those that contain mercury. Contact the Environmental Health and Safety Office at (934) 420-2105 for more information.

A standard exception to this policy is the purchase of fluorescent light bulbs, which must be managed and disposed of in accordance with FSC's [Universal Waste Management](#) policy. Other exceptions to the mercury-free purchase policy may be granted provided the purchaser demonstrates the lack of a viable mercury-free alternative device or method to the Environmental Health and Safety Office. All purchase requests of this nature are to be forwarded to Environmental Health and Safety for review/prior approval before submitting to the Purchasing Department for procurement purposes. Any irreplaceable use of mercury must be done in a safe manner consistent with FSC's [Chemical Hygiene Plan](#).