



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

News Release

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Deborah O. Raphael, Director

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Contact: Sandy Nax

Sandy.Nax@dtsc.ca.gov

(916) 327-6114

New mercury recycling requirements effective July 1

**Department of Toxic Substances Control says regulations protect public health
and the environment**

SACRAMENTO, CA –New regulations take effect today for the collection and recycling of used thermostats that contain toxic mercury.

The regulations released by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) affect manufacturers, collection centers and wholesalers of mercury-containing thermostats.

“Establishing measureable performance goals will increase the number of mercury thermostats that are collected,” said DTSC Director Deborah Raphael. “I’m proud that California is again leading the way, and will be a model for other take-back programs. I’m confident it will show how successful the industry is in collecting thermostats and making sure that the mercury stays out of the environment.”

Under the new regulations, manufacturers are required to collect and recycle more than 32,500 mercury-containing thermostats in the second half of 2013, or 30 percent of the estimated total number of mercury thermostats that become waste. Recycling goals increase annually until 2017, when the goal is a 75 percent collection and recycling rate, or more than 147,000 mercury thermostats.

A 2006 state law banned the sale of new mercury-added thermostats, and since this type of thermostat is a hazardous waste, they also cannot be placed in the trash that goes to municipal landfills. The Mercury Thermostat Collection Act of 2008 requires former manufacturers of mercury containing thermostats to operate a collection and recycling program for those that become waste.

Contractors who should have been delivering mercury thermostats to collection centers since 2008 will be required to comply with identification requirements. Thermostat manufacturers must continue to comply with the updated annual reporting requirements first established in 2008.

Information on collection points and disposal information can be found at the [Thermostat Recycling Corporation](#).

The new regulations can be found [here](#).

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The Mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated properties, identifying and promoting safer ingredients in consumer products, and ensuring stewardship through enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.