

# Oklahoma Mercury Thermostat Recycling Initiative

## Safe & Sustainable Disposal of Mercury Thermostats

Covanta Tulsa, Locke Supply and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) have partnered to provide a convenient way to responsibly recycle mercury containing thermostats in Oklahoma. Mercury is a heavy metal that represents a threat to human health and the environment when released into the environment. An average wall thermostat contains 4 grams of mercury, which is the equivalent of 800 compact fluorescent lights. Covanta, Locke Supply and ODEQ are committed to protecting our land, air and water.

This program will provide a safe way to prevent mercury from polluting the environment.



### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Locate the nearest Locke Supply location at:

[www.lockesupply.com/locations.php](http://www.lockesupply.com/locations.php)

Or contact your Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning (HVAC) contractor to responsibly recycle your thermostat.

For more information, please contact:

**Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC)**

[www.thermostat-recycle.org/](http://www.thermostat-recycle.org/)

**Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality**

[www.deq.state.ok.us/factsheets/land/whatism mercury.pdf](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/factsheets/land/whatism mercury.pdf)

### Environmental Dangers of Mercury

Preventing toxics like mercury from entering the waste stream plays a critical role in protecting our environment and water supply. Once in the waste stream, these thermostats may break and release mercury into the environment.



Look for the mercury switch inside.



**Please recycle the whole thermostat, do not remove mercury switch**

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### *How are the thermostats collected?*

Contractors and homeowners can deliver the out-of-use thermostats to any Locke Supply location across the state. The thermostat recycling containers are sent to the Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC).

### *Does my thermostat contain mercury?*

If the thermostat utilizes a dial or lever, chances are it contains mercury and should be recycled. The program will accept any brand of mercury-containing thermostat and the thermostats must be intact.

### *Should I take out the mercury switch?*

No. Return the entire thermostat fully intact, including the cover. The thermostat casing protects the mercury switch during shipment.

### *What's not accepted under this program?*

- Batteries, mercury thermometers, fluorescent light bulbs, and other devices containing mercury
- Loose mercury switches
- Leaking mercury-switch thermostats
- Electronic thermostats and other thermostats without mercury switches

### *What if I have other mercury-containing devices to recycle?*

For mercury containing devices not accepted by this program, please contact the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Land Protection Division at (405)-702-5100

### *What happens after I drop off the old thermostats?*

At least once per year, the collection bin is sent to TRC's recycling center.

### *How does this recycling program affect thermostats sent in under warranty?*

The recycling program and warranty programs are separate. Do not include in-warranty thermostats in the recycling containers.

### *Do I have to participate in the program?*

No. Participation is voluntary. However, it is in all our best interests to protect our environment.

### *What else should I know?*

Bring in old thermostats promptly. Have additional questions? Please visit:

[www.thermostat-recycle.org/](http://www.thermostat-recycle.org/)

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## About Covanta Tulsa

Covanta Tulsa Renewable Energy, LLC, owns and operates Oklahoma's only Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facility, processing over 300,000 tons of municipal solid waste per year to generate up to 240,000 pounds-per-hour of steam. The steam is used to generate clean, renewable electricity and is delivered to an adjacent refinery, offsetting their need for fossil fuels to generate steam on-site. The facility also recovers thousands of tons of metals per year for recycling.

## About Locke Supply

We are a growing Plumbing, Electrical, Heating & Cooling, employee owned distributor located in Oklahoma City, OK on a 45 acre complex supplying over 160 stores in a 5 state trade area to better serve you. The Locke Supply concept of taking the merchandise to the customer's territory with very competitive pricing has allowed Locke Supply to grow in areas never before considered profitable. Locke Supply maintains only the highest standards in quality of merchandise and people.