



Money Back for Recycled Mercury Thermostats



If you're a heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) contractor, you now have even more incentive to recycle mercury thermostats through the Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC). The TRC, the Product Stewardship Institute, and the State of Indiana are announcing a rebate program that rewards contractors for being environmentally responsible.

Incentive Program

Starting in January 2006, any contractor in Indiana who returns a mercury thermostat to a participating wholesaler will receive a rebate coupon worth \$3 off the price of a new, ENERGY STAR® qualified thermostat. Purchases are limited to Honeywell and White-Rodgers products only. The rebate program runs through December 31, 2006, or while supplies last.

The Process is Simple

- **Collect** mercury thermostats and store them safely in service trucks or at the shop.
- **Deliver** the thermostats to a participating wholesaler and receive a rebate coupon.* You can find a list of participating wholesalers at www.nema.org/trc.
- **Purchase** a new, mercury-free, ENERGY STAR® qualified thermostat.
- **Mail** the coupon, along with proof of purchase, to the TRC at the address provided on the coupon.
- **Receive** your rebate check in the mail. (Please allow 6-8 weeks for processing)
- **Contact** the Indiana Department of Environmental Management at 1-800-988-7901 (toll free) if you have additional questions about the rebate program.

Recycling Helps Protect the Environment

The TRC provides a great way to contribute to environmental protection. Recycling helps reduce the amount of mercury that enters the waste stream – It is the right thing to do.

So Come On – Recycle and Save Money!

* If you do business with wholesalers who do not participate in the TRC, encourage them to do so by contacting TRC!



Q&A about Recycling Mercury Thermostats

Q. What is the Thermostat Recycling Corporation?

A. Established in 1998, the TRC is a private corporation funded by the thermostat manufacturing industry. The program operates in coordination with the US Environmental Protection Agency and state environmental officials for the sole purpose of recycling mercury thermostats nationwide.

Q. Why did the thermostat industry create the TRC?

A. We want to see every mercury thermostat recycled. This reduces the possibility of mercury being released into the environment and it provides a convenient way to dispose of mercury thermostats. Our industry has the infrastructure needed to recycle a very high percentage of mercury thermostats.

Q. What specifically is my role?

A. Whenever you replace a mercury thermostat for service or upgrade, retain the old thermostat. When you make routine visits to your wholesaler, place these thermostats in the green plastic TRC container, which wholesalers will have placed somewhere in each participating branch.

Q. Should the mercury bulbs be separated from the thermostats and returned for recycling?

A. No. It is important to return the entire thermostat since it provides protection for the mercury bulb during shipment. Loose bulbs or leaking thermostats will not be accepted under this program. If you have either of these, you should call your local waste management agency.

Q. What about other mercury-containing products, such as batteries and fluorescent lights?

A. This program is only for mercury thermostats. Do NOT return batteries, fluorescent lights, or any other controls containing mercury. Contact your local waste management agency to find out about proper disposal of these items.

Q. Is there any cost involved?

A. There is no cost to HVAC contractors for this program. The temporary rebate provided on ENERGY STAR® qualified thermostat purchases is our way of encouraging you to become continuous TRC program participants.

Q. What should I do if a homeowner brings me a mercury thermostat that they have removed themselves?

A. We request that you recycle it through the TRC program by bringing it to a participating wholesaler with your other recovered thermostats.

Call TRC toll-free 1-800-238-8192 for more information on the TRC program generally. For more information on product stewardship, including thermostats, go to www.productstewardship.us.

