



Manitowoc County Mercury Reduction Program



Problems with Mercury:

Very small amounts of mercury can do significant damage. One gram of mercury is enough to contaminate all the fish in a lake with a surface area of 20 acres. A typical mercury thermometer contains approximately 0.7 grams of mercury (700 milligrams), but larger thermometers can contain as much as three grams. Both short term and long term exposure to mercury or mercury vapors can cause serious health problems for humans and wildlife.



How toxic is mercury?

Mercury affects the nervous system and can impair the way we hear, talk, see, walk, feel and think. Humans are exposed to mercury through contaminated air, water, food, or directly through the skin.

You can help!

Drop off any of the items listed below at a designated mercury drop-off site. Each household will qualify for one free digital thermometer in exchange for any mercury fever thermometer(s) brought to the Manitowoc County Recycling Center, while supplies last.

Guidelines:

- Household devices/material only.
- Items must be 7" by 12" or less. Oversized household items can be taken to the annual Household Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep event.
- When transporting mercury the item must be cushioned in a **sealed, non-metal container**.
- Do not open or damage mercury containing devices.
- Businesses can contact the Recycling Center about options for mercury disposal.

Accepted Items:

- Thermometers
- Thermostats
- Mercury switches
- Manometers
- Barometers
- Blood pressure monitors
- Dental amalgams
- Bulk mercury



Mercury Drop-off Sites:

Manitowoc County Recycling Center

3000 Basswood Road, Manitowoc, 683-4333, M – F, 7 am – 4 pm.

City of Manitowoc Wastewater Treatment Facility

1015 South Lakeview Drive, Manitowoc, 683-4515, M – F, 8 am – 4 pm.

City of Two Rivers Wastewater Treatment Facility

1415 Lake Street, Two Rivers, 793-5558, M – F, 7 am – 3 pm.

For Questions call 920-683-4333 or visit: Manitowoccounty.com/recyclingcenter