



## **NEW UNIVERSAL WASTE (U-WASTE) DISPOSAL REGULATIONS**

Beginning February 9, 2006, California residents must find alternative methods of disposing of household “universal waste,” such as batteries, old cell phones, and florescent light tubes. The law makes it illegal to place these items in the trash can.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) directs Californians to seek disposal of these items at designated household hazardous waste collection centers. Improper management of disposals containing hazardous metals, such as lead, mercury, cadmium, and chromium, can potentially contaminate soil and groundwater; therefore, they cannot be disposed of in the trash and subsequently deposited into landfills.

The City's waste hauler, Waste Management, is an industry leader in handling solid waste and recycling services and has provided the following list specifically identifying items designated as universal waste:

**Common batteries - AA, AAA, C & D cells, button batteries (e.g., hearing aid batteries)**

**Fluorescent tubes and bulbs and other mercury-containing lamps – fluorescent light tubes and bulbs, high intensity discharge (HID), metal halide, sodium, and neon bulbs**

**Thermostats – old style with the sealed glass tilt switch which contains mercury (the newer electronic kind are not included)**

**Electronic devices – televisions and computer monitors (which were already prohibited from household trash), computers, printers, VCRs, cell phones, telephones, radios, and microwave ovens.**

For additional information regarding universal waste, including how to properly dispose of it, visit [www.dtsc.ca.gov/hazardouswaste/universalwaste/index.cfm](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/hazardouswaste/universalwaste/index.cfm). Residents may also call the City of Inglewood/ Department of Public Works, Environmental Services at (310) 412-5333. Additional assistance can be obtained by contacting the Waste Evaluation help line at (916) 322-7676.

