

WONDER MAKERS ENVIRONMENTAL

AUGUST 2013 E-NEWSLETTER

Unintended Hazards of Trying to be Energy Efficient

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that over 234,000 non-fatal injuries occurred in bathrooms in the United States in 2008 (the latest year for which full statistics are available). Of all these injuries, more than 81% were falls, with a miniscule 0.6% of the accidental harms from fires or burns. However, if the experience of our CEO is any indication, that injury statistic related to fires in bathrooms may rise substantially in the next few years.

Although many people have heard of the environmental risks of mercury in compact fluorescent bulbs, very few consumers have heard about the other safety concerns associated with these devices. For example, why are there not large, obvious, warnings on the packages of those bulbs that they can be a fire hazard if they are installed in fixtures where the bulbs are pointed down rather than up? Fortunately, in this case, when he noticed an acrid smell of overheated electrical components while showering, the Wonder Maker executive was smart enough to finish his shower in the dark rather than risk a fire.

The light bulb taken from the fixture in the shower had gotten so hot that the glass tubing was bending away from the base that houses the ballast. It is clear that the combination of a compact fluorescent light, upside down use in a recessed fixture, and the fixture being in the shower with a tight seal at the glass to prevent the infiltration of moisture, can spell trouble.

See our website at WonderMakers.com/Education/Articles/Miscellaneous/Articles to read an article that explains even more interesting facts about compact fluorescent lights. Then contact Wonder Makers if you have any questions about the safety of such devices or concerns related to other indoor environmental issues.

Did You Know?

(For inclusion in your "You have got to be kidding!" file)

If a fluorescent bulb breaks in your home, the EPA's cleanup recommendations include, but are not limited to the following (because of the mercury contained in all such bulbs):

- Evacuate the area
- Turn off the HVAC system to prevent cross contamination
- Open the windows and leave them open for several hours after cleanup
- Place all debris in a glass jar with a tight fitting metal lid
- Vacuum only if it is absolutely necessary, and throw away the vacuum bag after cleanup and after "the next several times" the area where the breakage occurred is vacuumed
- Check with your local government about disposal requirements in your area

(Full details can be found in the article referenced above.)

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Mold Remediation Technician

September 10-12: Kalamazoo, MI

November 12-14: Kalamazoo, MI

Mold Remediation Supervisor

September 17-18: Kalamazoo, MI

Certified Mold Professional

October 22-24: St. Louis, MO

For complete schedule see:

[WonderMakers.com/Education/2013Training schedule](http://WonderMakers.com/Education/2013Training%20schedule)

Continuing Education Credits

You can earn continuing education credits by attending the MRT classes.

RIA: 3 credits, Clean Trust: 1 credit, NADCA: 4 credits

New Training Course: Improving the Environment for Mold-Sensitized Individuals

This eight-hour course is for consultants, contractors, and impacted individuals to learn the latest techniques for evaluating and improving environments for sensitized persons. For more information check out our Class Descriptions page at [WonderMakers.com/Education/Class Descriptions](http://WonderMakers.com/Education/Class%20Descriptions).

This class will be offered for the first time on September 20, 2013, in Atascadero, California.

Register online at WonderMakers.com or call 888-382-4154.

Contact Wonder Makers if you would like to host this class in your area.

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