

How to dispose of old thermostats

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OREGON – The Product Stewardship Institute and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency are working with businesses across the state to help residents safely dispose of older household thermostats which contain mercury.

Mercury is a toxic heavy metal that can cause serious health problems once it enters the environment. Residents can bring thermostats to participating TrueValue and ACE Hardware stores to be recycled at no cost. They will receive a \$5 coupon to use at that store. The coupon program ends Oct. 15.

Visit thermostat-recycle.org/statelaws/illinois for more information on recycling. The closest stores to the Sauk Valley are in Rockford, Belvidere, Machesney Park, Freeport, and Clinton, Iowa.

For more information, contact Suna Bayrakal at suna@productstewardship.us or 617-671-0616, or Ogle County Solid Waste Management at 815-732-4020.