

waste sodium lamps



Storing & handling guidance



This advice note has been prepared to help collectors of waste sodium lamps in the preparation of their own site-specific risk assessments and staff training.

Waste sodium lamps, including SON and SOX lamps, predominantly arise from street lighting maintenance activities.

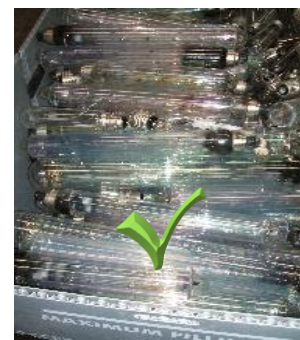
Sodium can react with water to produce explosive hydrogen gases, and heat. Therefore precautions must be taken with storage and handling.

1. Sodium lamps should be stored in their own container and NOT with mercury containing lamps.
2. Prevent lamp breakage and water ingress into the container.
3. Store containers under cover, wherever possible; this is the safest method
4. Place container on a level impermeable surface – e.g. concrete and not located near a surface drain.
5. Keep containers away from operational areas, thoroughfare, emergency exit or similar, vehicles, employees, contractors, customers, and members of the public.
6. Inform all employees on your site of the risks via a risk assessment and method statement.
7. Employees accessing the containers should be trained appropriately to prevent harm to themselves/others and the environment.
8. Container lids should always be replaced immediately after use, to prevent rainwater ingress. Lids should be secured, either by use of any locking mechanism that may exist, or by weighting down appropriately. This is particularly important if the container is left outside in a windy environment for any period.
9. Lamps placed in the container should be dry. If wet, they become slippery to handle and can introduce water into the container.
10. Both plastic and metal containers are suitable.
11. Waste lamps should be gently placed inside the container, and carefully stacked in such a way to minimize any movement during transport.

12. In the event of fire, do not use a water-based fire extinguisher. Relocate the container down the yard as far away from the premises as possible with the lid on. In case of fire contact the local Fire Brigade making them aware that Sodium Lamps are in the container.
13. The site should NOT decant the lamps, as they need to know the best practice to observe in this instance. Decanting can stir all the material up and may be dangerous for the member of staff.
14. Any fizzing will be due to broken low pressure sodium lamps (SOX). A high-pressure sodium (SON) won't react with moisture.

Risk assessment - points to consider

1. Choose experienced staff for storing the sodium lamps in the container – A young apprentice may be less knowledgeable which could place employer under a greater duty of care; the task is to prevent harm to themselves, others and the environment.
2. Correct PPE to be worn: As a minimum: Safety glasses/goggles, coveralls, safety boots, suitable gloves, Hi-Viz vest or jacket.
3. If more than 10 lamps are broken in a loading session, stop loading the container for at least 30 mins to allow the dissipation of vapours – if conditions are dry remove the container lid to assist in the dissipation of any vapour.
4. If there is a high risk of large amounts of lamp breakage (i.e. they are doing something wrong) then they will need to consider wearing a 3M mask with an appropriate filter.
5. Cardboard packaging surrounding each lamp must be removed before placing the lamp in the container. Recolight will charge collection points for excessive packaging found in containers.
6. It is advisable to store any broken lamps in a different container – e.g. very heavy-duty bag or RC8.
7. Keep the area around the container swept clear of debris and free from slip and trip hazards - do not compromise the work of loading the container.
8. The container must not be overfilled, as this may cause the sides to expand and make fitting the lid difficult.
9. Keep traffic away from the bins to avoid, for example, a vehicle reversing into the container.
10. Lamps should be stacked as uniformly as possible – not randomly. This will help to minimise breakage.



Contact Recolight

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Disclaimer

This information is offered as guidance. It is your responsibility to ensure that correct procedures are in place. Recolight accept no legal responsibility for any errors, omissions or misleading statements.