



New Ban on Mercury Button Cell Batteries

By Jeff Mayhugh

On Jan. 1, 2011, mercury-added novelties that contain mercury button cell batteries will be banned from sale or distribution in Ohio.

Unless the mercury was in a button cell battery, mercury-added novelty items have been banned for sale or distribution in Ohio since Oct. 6, 2007. A mercury-added novelty item is defined in [Ohio Revised Code § 3734.61](#) as a product in which mercury is present and that is intended mainly for personal or household enjoyment or adornment. Novelty items covered by the rule include, but are not limited to: products intended for use as practical jokes; figurines; adornments; toys; games; cards; ornaments; yard statues and figures; candles; jewelry; holiday decorations; footwear; other items of apparel; or similar products. Mercury-added novelties with a fluorescent light bulb, such as hand-held video game consoles or cell phones, are not included in the rule.

You can read more about Ohio's mercury ban rule in the [Ohio School and Consumer Mercury Product Bans](#) guidance document.

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