



For Immediate Release

## Get a \$10 Gift Card For Dropping Off Items Containing Mercury

*Onondaga County residents are invited to safely dispose of thermostats and thermometers.*

**SYRACUSE, N.Y.** (September 9, 2023) — Mercury can be harmful to humans and wildlife when handled improperly. Keeping mercury thermometers and thermostats out of the trash benefits the environment and our community. OCRRA and Covanta, operator of the local Waste-to-Energy Facility, are sponsoring a special Mercury Collection Event for Onondaga County residents on Saturday, September 16 from 8-11 a.m. at Miller Environmental Group, Inc., (532 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse). Visitors can stay in their vehicles. No materials from businesses are accepted.

Onondaga County residents can find details and register at [www.tinyurl.com/Mercury2023](http://www.tinyurl.com/Mercury2023). Covanta will reward eligible visitors with one \$10 Lowe's gift card IF the items being dropped off contain mercury. Those who bring mercury thermometers will get a replacement digital thermometer, courtesy of Covanta.

### How do you know if an item contains mercury?

- Mercury thermometers have tubes with silver, metallic grey or black filling. Any other color indicates the thermometer is not eligible for this event since it doesn't contain mercury and can be thrown in the trash.
- Mercury thermostats have levers or dials that you move to change the temperature. If you remove the faceplate and see a glass capsule with a silver substance, it contains mercury. Do not remove or break the capsule. If your thermostat is digital / programmable, it is not eligible for drop-off and can go in the trash.

*Note – one gift card per registrant, regardless of the number of mercury-containing items dropped off.*

Mercury that isn't managed properly may get washed into our waterways, harming local fish and other wildlife. Bringing thermometers and thermostats that contain mercury to the upcoming collection event is a perfect way Onondaga County residents can help OCRRA and Covanta save the world a little each day.

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**About OCRRA**

OCRRA is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation created by the New York State Legislature to deliver a comprehensive solid waste management and resource recovery system to Onondaga County residents. Services include recycling education, a Household Hazardous Waste Program, the Jamesville and Amboy Compost Sites, and waste management at the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station. Learn more at [www.OCRRA.org](http://www.OCRRA.org),

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**About Covanta**

Covanta is a leader in sustainable materials management providing environmental services to businesses and communities. Through its network of facilities and state-of-the-art services, Covanta is a single-source partner in solving today's most complex environmental challenges. For more information, visit [covanta.com](http://covanta.com).