



Hundreds of Items Dropped off for proper disposal at OCRRA & Reworld Mercury Collection Event

SYRACUSE, N.Y. [September 13, 2025] — Nearly 250 items were dropped off Saturday in Syracuse at the annual Mercury Thermometer and Thermostat Collection, hosted by OCRRA and Reworld. The free event is a reminder that thermostats or thermometers that contain mercury never belong in your curbside trash or recycling bins where they may break and become a hazard to haulers and others who manage waste.

Reworld gave out \$10 gift cards and new digital thermometers to Onondaga County residents who properly managed those items by dropping them off at the event. Many visitors said they were cleaning out basements or garages and realized they had more thermometers than they need. Others decided to switch over to digital thermostats as temperatures drop.

Only devices that contain mercury need special management. How do you know?

Thermometers with mercury have a silver liquid in the bulb and rising up the temperature scale. If it is any other color, such as red, that means it is an alcohol thermometer and can be put in the trash for disposal.

Old mercury **thermostats** have levers or dials to change the temperature and if you can remove the faceplate, you'll see a capsule inside with a metallic silver liquid.

Anyone who missed the free drop-off event today can visit OCRRA.org for year-round options to manage mercury thermometers and thermostats.

Broadcast outlets: B-roll from today's event, including soundbites can be downloaded for use here: <https://we.tl/t-i5mWJQ1kbi> The first soundbite is with Mary Starowicz, Geddes. The second soundbite is Joseph Jeraci, Camillus.

Print/digital outlets: Photos can be downloaded for use here: <https://we.tl/t-UXDJS4eQ7N> Each one is labeled. If you need additional assistance with identifying information, feel free to reach out.

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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, organics management at Jamesville and Amboy Compost Sites, and waste management at the Rock Cut Road Transfer Station. Learn more at www.OCRRA.org,

About Reworld™

Reworld™ is a leader in sustainable waste solutions, providing innovative and environmentally responsible services to a global community. Reworld™ is committed to advancing zero waste initiatives and supporting sustainability goals through state-of-the-art technologies that reimagine, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, and renew. For more information, visit www.reworldwaste.com.