TRAVELING WITH
SHARPS
NEEDLES

Disposing of Your Syringes

It is now illegal to dispose of syringes in the trash, or recycling bin, or composting bins. All needles should be treated as if they carry a disease. That means if someone gets stuck with a needle, they could get infected with a disease that may be on the needle. Therefore, they would have to get extensive medical tests and worry about whether they have caught a harmful or deadly disease. You have the power to prevent a situation like this simply by safely disposing of your used sharps. Do not place others at risk when safe alternatives are currently available.

Why Are Needles Dangerous?

They can injure people; can spread germs (hepatitis and HIV/AIDS); damage recycling equipment; and require people to be tested for years for HIV and hepatitis, if they are stuck.

To avoid needle sticks at home and protect garbage and recycling workers, don’t do the following:

• Don’t throw used needles, syringes, or lancets in the garbage.
• Don’t put needles in recycling containers.
• Don’t flush needles down the toilet.
• Don’t put needles into used plastic milk jugs, bleach bottles, or soda bottles.

To properly and legally dispose of needles, do the following:

• Use an approved disposal container.
• Find a collection center for proper disposal.

Protect Yourself, Protect Others,
Safe Options for Home Needle Disposal

A Guide to Syringe Disposal

CALL 1-800-OILY CAT (645-9228)
FOR UPDATED INFORMATION
ON PROPER DISPOSAL
OF HOME-GENERATED
SHARPS/NEEDLES

Approved sharps container

Per California State Law, it is illegal to dispose of sharps (needles) in the trash, recycling bin or composting bins. It is also illegal to transport sharps (needles) in a non-biohazard container.

Never place used sharps (needles) in the trash on airplanes, in hotel rooms, or in public restrooms. Don’t forget: safe sharps (needle) disposal is important no matter where you are — at home, at work, or on the road.

Be prepared — ask about options for safe sharps (needle) disposal when you make travel reservations. If you aren’t sure that sharps containers will be available where you’re going, be sure to buy a sharps container that can hold your used sharps (needles) until you can properly dispose of them.

Approved sharps container

Containers can be purchased at your local:

+ Walgreens  + Wal-Mart
+ Rite Aid  + Target with pharmacy

Consider using a “Mail-Back” service for proper disposal. You may also purchase the mail-back containers online. The following are mail-back services approved by the California Department of Public Health (fees apply).

EnviroMed Safety & Compliance
(877) 340-2430 . . . . . . www.enviromedinc.com

GRO & Associates
(800) 207-0976 . . . www.sharpsdisposal.com

Medasend, Inc.
(800) 200-3581 . . . . . . . www.medasend.com

Republic Services . . www.republicsharps.com

Sharps Compliance, Inc.
SCI Mail Sharps Disposal System
(800) 772-5657 . . . . . . . www.sharpsinc.com

Stericycle, Inc.
(800) 355-8773 . . . . . . . www.stericycle.com

Approved sharps container

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1-800-OILY CAT (645-9228)
WHY ARE SHARPS (NEEDLES) DANGEROUS?

Sharps (needles) can injure people, can spread germs (hepatitis and HIV/AIDS), damage recycling equipment, and require people to be tested for years for HIV and hepatitis if they are stuck. You have the power to prevent a situation like this simply by safely disposing of your used sharps. Do not place others at risk when safe alternatives are currently available.

To avoid needle sticks at home and protect garbage and recycling workers, DON’T do the following:

DON’T throw used sharps (needles), syringes, or lancets in the garbage/trash, whether at home or away from home.

DON’T put sharps (needles) in recycling containers.

DON’T flush sharps (needles) down the toilet.

DON’T put sharps (needles) into used plastic milk jugs, coffee cans, plastic bags, bleach or soda bottles.

DON’T handle someone else’s sharps (needles).

DON’T overfill sharps containers (¾ full is full).

DON’T place non-sharps items in your sharps containers (pills, wound dressings, surgical instruments and other large metal parts, hard, heavy plastics, glass, fabric, thermometers).

To properly and legally dispose of sharps (needles), DO the following:

DO use only an approved sharps container for sharps disposal.

DO obtain an approved container (biohazard) and transfer sharps before transport and disposal.

DO place a secure lid on the sharps container.

DO check with your HHW Program to verify Home-Generated Sharps Collection sites.

DO ask your local HHW Program for clarification on sharps (needles) management and disposal, if necessary.

OPTIONS FOR PROPER SHARPS (NEEDLES) DISPOSAL

The following Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Facilities accept home-generated sharps/needles in approved containers from San Bernardino County residents.

**SAN BERNARDINO**, CA 92408
San Bernardino International Airport
2824 East “W” Street
Monday – Friday, 9AM to 4PM

**RIALTO**, CA 92376
City Maintenance Yard, 246 Willow Avenue
2nd & 4th Friday & Saturday, 8AM to 12PM

**ONTARIO**, CA 91761
1430 South Cucamonga Avenue
Friday & Saturday, 9AM to 2PM

**UPLAND**, CA 91786
Upland City Yard, 1370 North Benson
Saturday, 9AM to 2PM

**BIG BEAR LAKE**, CA 92315
Public Service Yard, 42404 Garstin Drive
Saturday, 9AM to 2PM

**HESPERIA**, CA 92345
Hesperia Fire Station, 17443 Lemon Street
Tuesday & Thursday, 9AM to 1PM

The following facility accepts home-generated sharps/needles in approved containers from all San Bernardino County residents.

**San Bernardino County Public Health Lab** (909) 458-9430
150 East Holt Blvd., Ontario, Monday – Friday, 8AM to 5PM

Also available are disposal options for residents within the following City limits:

City of Fontana . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . (909) 350-6789
City of Redlands . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . (909) 798-7600
City of Rancho Cucamonga . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . (909) 919-2635

For residents within the following Counties, contact:

Riverside County . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . (800) 304-2226
Los Angeles County . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . (800) 988-6942
Orange County . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . (714) 834-4000