



Home-Generated Sharps Disposal

As of September 1, 2008, State law (Section 118286 of the California Health and Safety Code) made it illegal to dispose of sharps waste in the trash or recycling containers and requires that all sharps waste be transported to a collection center in an approved sharps container.

Effective September 1, 2008 no person shall knowingly place home-generated sharps waste in any of the following containers:

- 1) Any container used for the collection of solid waste, recyclable materials or greenwaste.
- 2) Any container used for the commercial collection of solid waste or recyclable materials from business establishments.
- 3) Any roll-off container used for the collection of solid waste, construction and demolition debris, greenwaste or other recyclable materials.

Home-generated sharps waste shall be transported only in an approved sharps container and disposed at the following locations:

- 1) A household hazardous waste facility.
- 2) A home-generated sharps consolidation point.
- 3) A medical waste generator's facility.
- 4) A State-approved sharps mail-back service.

All refuse is handled by people both at recycling facilities and at landfills. Staff at these facilities could be stuck by needles or other sharps that poke through their protective clothing, including heavy gloves and boots. This could result in serious injury, including infection by pathogens either from the needle user or by pathogens that contaminate a needle after it is disposed.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

1) What types of waste are considered home-generated sharps waste?

Hypodermic needles, pen needles, intravenous needles, lancets, and other devices that are used to penetrate the skin for the delivery of medications derived from a household, farms or ranches.

Note: This includes both human and animal sharps waste.

2) Where can I purchase sharps containers and what is the cost?

- Longs (\$5-6 per container)
- Walgreen (\$5-6 per container)
- GRP & Associates (800) 207-0976
www.sharpsdisposal.com (Cost 5 qt. \$3.74).

This list may not be complete and is not an endorsement of any specific store or product.

3) Where can I purchase mail-order return sharps containers and what is the cost?

Sharps waste may be mailed for disposal if utilizing one of the companies listed below which have been approved by the California Department of Public Health.

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

GRP & Associates (800) 207-0976
www.sharpsdisposal.com (Cost 1 gal \$60.95)

Medasend, Inc – Sharps mail-back service
info@medasend.com , or (800) 200-3581

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

Stericycle, Inc.—Sharps mail-back service
(800) 355-8773, (800) 527-0666, or www.stericycle.com (Cost 1 gal \$51.65)

WCM (Waste & Compliance Management, Inc.)
(866) 436-9264, or www.wcminc.net

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4) Can other types of containers be used for storing sharps waste?

Yes. Containers may be placed in a hard opaque plastic or metal puncture resistant container (**no larger than 1 gal.**) with a screw on cap such as a used bleach bottle. When full, tape the cap or lid onto the container with duct tape. Write the word “Sharps” on the outside of the container.

5) Where can I dispose of the sharps waste containers locally if I am not using a sharps mailing service?

Ask the pharmacy where you purchased the sharps if the pharmacy will take back the sharps container. The following locations are approved consolidation points in Merced County:

Merced County Household Hazardous Waste Facility
6040 N. Hwy 59 Merced (Hours M-W-F 9-3:30 and Saturday 8-12 PM, no charge)

Merced County Division of Environmental Health
260 E. 15th St., Merced, CA 95340 (Hours M-F 8:00 – 5PM, no charge)

Note: Additional consolidation points may be added in the future.

6) What are the requirements to become a home-generated sharps consolidation point ?

The home-generated sharps consolidation point would need to be approved by the Division of Environmental Health and meet the following requirements:

- All sharps waste shall be placed in sharps containers.
- Sharps containers ready for disposal shall not be held for more than 7 days without the written approval of the Division of Environmental Health.

Note: The operator of a home-generated sharps consolidation point shall not be considered the generator of that waste.

7) Is there a difference in home-generated sharps and business-generated sharps disposal ?

Yes. Businesses such as hospitals, doctors' offices, veterinary offices etc. are permitted and regulated under a different State law.

8) Are there special considerations for dairies which generate sharps?

Yes. Dairies should contact their sharps supplier to determine if they will take back the sharps. If the sharps supplier will not take back the sharps, the County Hwy. 59 Household Hazardous Waste facility, will accept the sharps. Because of the high volume of sharps on dairies, rigid, plastic 5

gallon containers with lids that are taped may be used. The containers must be labeled "Sharps".

9) How are the sharps disposed after collection?

The sharps are collected by a licensed company. The sharps waste is heated to destroy pathogens and landfilled.

10) Who do I contact if I have questions?

Merced County Division of Environmental Health at 381-1100.

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