



## SAFE DISPOSAL OF SYRINGES AND SHARPS (HOME-GENERATED)

Hypodermic needles, syringes, and other sharps potentially transmit diseases. The California Health Safety Code Section 118286 prohibits throwing away home-generated sharps.

### Dispose of them safely and properly by doing the following:

a) Ask your pharmacy/supplier if they take back the sharps, b) drop them off at a collection point (listed below) or c) purchase a mail-back container

**Home Generation**=Generated by an individual for personal use.  
**Sharps**=Hypodermic needles, syringes and lancets. Other sharp objects that can puncture /cut and potentially transmit disease should be treated as sharps.

### Containerize:

1. Syringes/needles/other sharps should be placed in a hard, opaque (not clear) plastic bottle or metal puncture-resistant container (**no larger than 1 gal**) with a screw on cap such as a used bleach or water softener bottle.
2. When full, duct tape the cap or lid to the container. Write the word "Sharps" on the outside of the container, and take the container to either of the first two locations listed below. *Note: the third location only accepts approved containers.*

### Home-Generated Sharps Collection Points (at no charge) for residents:



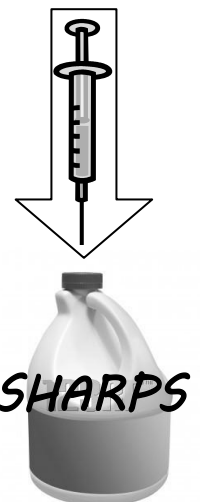
1. **Merced County Division of Environmental Health**  
260 E. 15th Street, Merced, CA / (209) 381-1100  
Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm



2. **Merced County Regional Household Hazardous Waste Facility**  
7040 N. State Highway 59, Merced, CA  
**Note:** Call (209) 723-4481 to schedule a drop-off appointment.



3. **Memorial Hospital Los Banos**  
520 W. I St., Los Banos / (209) 826-0591  
Hours: Monday-Sunday, 7:00am-7:00pm  
Collection kiosk located behind the Clinical Lab  
**Note: Sharps must be inside an approved container**



Use containers no larger in size than 1 gallon.

**Note:** For the collection at Memorial Hospital, Sharps must be inside an **approved** container.



**DO NOT** throw needles & syringes in the trash.  
**DO NOT** break or bend needles.  
**DO NOT** recap needles.  
**DO NOT** use glass containers like a drink bottle.  
**DO NOT** use containers that will be recycled or returned, like soda bottles.  
**DO NOT** use clear plastic containers.