

Sharps Collection Program

What are Home Generated Sharps? Home Generated Sharps (HGS) are needles, syringes with needles, and disposable lancets. Improper disposal of HGS is a health and safety hazard to children, home health care providers, sanitation workers, and pets who may suffer accidental “stick” injuries.

Effective on or after September 1, 2008, no person in California shall knowingly place home-generated sharps waste in:

- Any container used for the collection of solid waste, recyclable materials, or green waste;
- Any container used for the collection of solid waste or recyclable materials from business establishments; and
- Any roll-off container used for the collection of solid waste, construction and demolition debris, green waste, or other recyclable materials.

Also, as of this date, home generated sharps waste shall only be transported in a sharps container or other containers approved by an enforcement agency and shall only be managed at:

- A household hazardous waste facility;
- A medical waste generator's facility;
- A facility through the use of a medical waste mail-back container approved by the California Department of Health Services;
- A home generated sharps consolidation point.

How should I dispose of my sharps?

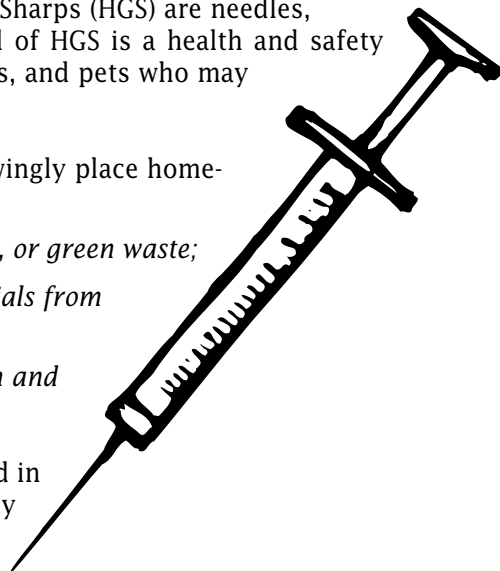
Effective September 1, 2008, it is illegal to place home-generated sharps in the trash or in any type of recycling bin (including those for green waste and construction and demolition debris). Home-generated sharps must be disposed of at an approved facility (such as a hospital, clinic, pharmacy, or household hazardous waste collection center) or through an approved mail-back program. In addition, sharps should only be transported in an approved container that is rigid and puncture-resistant. Such containers are leak-proof, red, constructed of rigid plastic, and have a biohazards label. Sharps containers should only be filled three quarters full before being sealed for disposal.

Coffee cans, aluminum beverage containers, plastic milk jugs, and other like containers are **not** appropriate containers for the storage of sharps and cannot be accepted. You should **never** dispose of your HGS or sharps containers in the regular trash. Please remember the following:

- Place sharps in an approved sharps container immediately after use with the point down;
- Do not attempt to bend or break a needle or syringe;
- Do not put the cap back on a needle;
- Keep all sharps and disposal containers out of the reach of children.

Where can I obtain a sharps container? Sharps containers can be obtained for free at one of the collection sites listed below, while supplies last.

Where can I take my sharps container once it is full? The locations listed below will accept HGS in proper containers from residents of Santa Barbara County. You will not be charged for disposal. Please call the collection facility prior to your arrival to obtain its operating hours and to confirm the location. Never leave sharps containers at a collection facility after its operating hours.



How many sharps containers may I dispose of? Residents may not dispose of more than two sharps containers during any visit and are limited to one visit per week. Hospitals, clinics, medical practices, pathology labs, convalescent homes, group homes, nursing facilities, hospices, and veterinarian hospitals are not eligible to use this program. Each collection facility reserves the right to refuse to accept sharps.

The following facilities accept home-generated sharps waste such as 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, including a multi-family household:

Asbury Environmental Services

2100 North Alameda Street
Compton, CA 90222
(800) 974-4495

Cintas/Response First Aid Systems

737 North Main Street
Orange, CA 92868
(877) 973-2811

(Can purchase a container for the collection of sharps and then ship the container with the sharps back to the company for free.)

City of Santa Maria Household Hazardous Waste Facility

2065 East Main Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 925-0951, ext. 7270
Operating hours: Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Closed on New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Marian Medical Center

Environmental Health Department
1400 East Church Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 739-3675
Operating hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Call ahead to arrange a drop-off time.

Safety Kleen

5310 Overpass Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
(805) 681-5380
(Can purchase a container for the collection of sharps and then ship the container with the sharps back to the company for free.)

Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Carpinteria Clinic

931 Walnut Avenue
Carpinteria, CA 93013
(805) 560-1050
Operating hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Lompoc Clinic

301 North "R" Street
Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 737-6488
Operating hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Santa Barbara Clinic

315 Camino Del Remedio, Rm 117
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805) 681-5380
Operating hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Franklin Clinic

1136 East Montecito Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
(805) 568-2099
Operating hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Santa Maria Clinic

2115 South Centerpointe Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455
(805) 346-8421
Operating hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

For more information, please call the County Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division, Household Hazardous Waste Specialist, at (805) 882-3615.



Here are some programs approved by the California Department of Public Health for the disposal of sharps by mail:

EnviroMed Safety & Compliance

(877) 340-2430
www.enviromedinc.com

GRP & Associates

(800) 207-0976
www.sharpsdisposal.com

Medasend, Incorporated

(800) 200-3581
info@medasend.com

Sharps Compliance, Incorporated

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

Stericycle, Incorporated

Sharps Mail-Back Service
(800) 355-8773 or (800) 527-0666
www.stericycle.com

Waste and Compliance Management, Inc.

(866) 436-9264
www.wcminc.net

**Waste Management/
Health Sanitation Service**

(877) 927-8363 (WASTE-MD)
www.wastemd.com

In conjunction with Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD) and Sharps Compliance Inc., Waste Management has established a Sharps Disposal by Mail System. A household that purchases this system will receive a sharps container, a postage paid box, and a tracking form. The sharps containers come in single, double, or triple packs that can hold from 60 to 1,500 sharps. A household collects its used sharps in the container and seals the sharps in the container's packaging, once it is full. The household then mails the box to the nearest processing center, where the sharps container and the packaging are destroyed. The household will then receive confirmation of the receipt of the container and the destruction of its contents.

XMED Disposal Inc.

(866) 735-9709
www.xmeddisposal.com

