

# A Guide to Sharps Disposal



Protect Yourself . . . Protect Your Family  
Protect Animals . . . Protect Others



Use Safe Options  
for Home Needle  
Disposal

## DISPOSING OF YOUR SHARPS

Effective September 1, 2008, State law makes it illegal to dispose of **sharps** (hypodermic needles, pen needles, intravenous needles, and lancets) in the trash or recycling bin, or composting bins.

All needles should be treated as if they carry a disease. That means that 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 sharps. Do not place others at risk when safe alternatives are currently available.

## SAFE PACKAGING



The safest and required method to package your sharps is in an approved red or clear sharps container. The sharps container is puncture-resistant and, once sealed, cannot spill. This container is considered full when it has been filled to three quarters of its capacity. At this point, the container should be permanently sealed and returned to a disposal location as soon as possible.

Sharps containers can be purchased both online or at your local Rite Aid, Target with pharmacy, Walgreens and Wal-Mart. Replacement containers are available at your local Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Facility.

## TRAVELING WITH SHARPS

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

Be prepared - ask about options for safe needle disposal when you make travel reservations. If you aren't sure that the needle containers will be available where, and when, you are going, be sure to buy a needle container that can hold your used needles until you can properly dispose of them.



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CITY OF VICTORVILLE  
Solid Waste Division  
Recycling Info: (760) 955-8615  
[www.VictorvilleRecycles.com](http://www.VictorvilleRecycles.com)



# OPTIONS FOR PROPER SHARPS DISPOSAL

The following Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Facilities accept home-generated sharps/needles in approved containers from San Bernardino County Residents. Replacement containers are available at these facilities:

**SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408**  
San Bernardino International Airport  
2824 East "W" Street  
(909) 382-5401  
Monday - Friday, 9AM - 4PM

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

**BIG BEAR LAKE, Ca 92315**  
Public Service yard  
42040 Garsrin Drive  
Saturday, 9AM - 2PM

**HESPERIA, Ca 92340**  
Hesperia Fire Station  
17443 Lemon Street  
(800) 645-9228  
Tuesday & Thursday, 9AM - 1PM  
Saturday, 9AM - 3PM

**JOSHUA TREE, CA 92252**  
West of Transportation/Flood Control Bldg.  
62499 Twentynine Palms Highway  
3rd Saturday, 9AM - 1PM

**APPLE VALLEY, CA 92308**  
13450 Nomwaket Rd.  
(between Powhatan & Ottawa)  
(760) 240-7521  
Saturday, 10AM - 2PM

**BARSTOW, CA 92311**  
City of Barstow Corporation Yard  
900 South Avenue "H"  
Saturday, 9AM - 2PM

**VICTORVILLE, CA 92392**  
San Bernardino County Fairgrounds  
East of Desert Knoll Drive on Loves Lane  
(760) 955-5229  
Wednesday & Sunday, 9AM - 4PM

The following facility accepts home-generated sharps/needles in approved containers from all San Bernardino County residents, as well as offers replacement containers: **San Bernardino County Public Health Lab (909) 383-3000**  
799 East Rialto Ave., San Bernardino, Monday - Friday, 8AM - 5PM

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

## WHY ARE SHARPS DANGEROUS

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.

To avoid needle sticks at home and protect garbage and recycling workers, DO NOT do the following:

- Don't throw used needles, syringes, or lancets in the garbage/trash, whether at home or away from home.
- Don't put needles in recycling containers.
- Don't flush needles down the toilet.
- Don't put needles into used plastic milk jugs, bleach or soda bottles.
- Don't handle someone else's syringe.
- Don't overfill sharp containers.
- Don't place non-sharps items in your sharps containers (pills, wound dressings, surgical instruments, and other large metal parts, hard, heavy plastics, glass, fabrics, thermometers).

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



- Do use only approved sharps container for sharps disposal.
- Do obtain an approved container 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 HHW Program for clarification on sharps management and disposal, if necessary.

Updated: January 2012