



SHARPS WASTE

Beginning on September 1, 2008, State Law (Section 118286 of the California Health and Safety Code) makes it illegal to dispose of sharps waste in the trash or recycling containers.

What is Sharps Waste?

People use sharps to treat all sorts of medical conditions in the home, and the number of conditions treated at home with injectable medicines continues to rise. "Sharps waste" has been defined by the California Health and Safety code Section 117755 as "any device having acute rigid corners, edges, or protuberances capable of cutting or piercing, including but not limited to, all of the following:

- ▶ Hypodermic needles, hypodermic needles with syringes, blades, needles with attached tubing, syringes contaminated with biohazardous waste, acupuncture needles, and root canal files.
- ▶ Broken glass items, such as Pasteur pipettes and blood vials contaminated with biohazardous waste.
- ▶ Any item capable of cutting or piercing that is contaminated with trauma scene waste".



Sharps safety tips

Improperly discarded sharps can injure family members, solid waste workers, and can end up in places where they are a danger to the public.

- Do not** use glass containers to collect sharps (they can break).
- Do not** put sharps containers in your trash or recycling bin.
- Do not** throw loose needles or lancets into the trash or recycling bin.
- Do not** flush needles or lancets down the toilet.

If you have any questions regarding the disposal of syringes and needles, please contact the Environmental Management Department, Medical Waste Management Program at 530-621-5300 or visit our website at www.gfeiqx0w/emd

For additional information on sharps contact the California Department of Health Services, Medical Waste Management Program at 916.449.5671 or go to their website: www.cdph.ca.gov