



**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
Division of Environmental Health

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## SAFE DISPOSAL OF HOME-GENERATED SHARPS

### What are Home-Generated SHARPS?

1. Sharps are hypodermic needles, syringes, and lancets that are used at home for medical purposes. Because sharps come into contact with human blood they can transmit disease. Other sharp objects that can puncture or cut and potentially transmit disease should be treated as sharps.

### What Type of Container Should I Use to Dispose Sharps In?

1. Sharps need to be placed in a hard opaque plastic bottle or metal puncture resistant container (**no larger than 2 gallons**) with a screw-on cap, such as a used rinsed bleach bottle or detergent bottle. Thin plastic containers cannot be accepted (e.g., milk jugs) as needles could puncture through, creating a potential exposure hazard.
2. When the container is full, tape the cap or lid tightly onto the container with packing or construction-grade tape.

### Where Can I Dispose of the Sharps Container?

1. Ask your pharmacy or other sharps supplier if they will take back the sharps or if you can purchase a sharps mail-back container to return used sharps to the manufacturer.
2. You may also drop sharps off at one of our Home-Generated Sharps Consolidation Points (listed below). As of September 1, 2008, the California Health Safety Code, Section 118286, prohibits the disposal of home-generated sharps in your garbage or recycling bins.

### Free Home-generated Sharps Consolidation Points for Merced County Residents:

1. Merced County Community and Economic Development Department,  
Division of Environmental Health (MCDEH) / Department of Public Health  
260 E. 15th Street, Merced, CA  
Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
(209) 381-1100
2. Merced County Human Services Agency (HSA) / Department of Public Health  
415 F Street, Los Banos, CA  
Hours: Monday through Friday, 10:00 am - 11:00 am **and** 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
(209) 710-6085

**DO NOT** throw sharps, needles or syringes into the trash.

**DO NOT** break or bend needles.

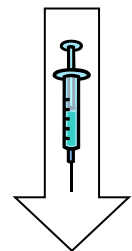
**DO NOT** recap needles.

**DO NOT** use glass containers for sharps disposal (glass may break).

**MCDEH and HSA are not able to accept items with  
unused or partially used medications still in the syringes.**

**Use Caution: Hypodermic Needles, Syringes, and other Sharps can transmit diseases.**

For more information, please call MCDEH at (209) 381-1100.



Use containers no  
larger than 2 gallons