

Keep Used Needles Out of the Trash!



A guide to safe disposal of home generated sharps for unincorporated county residents



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The County of San Diego
Department of Environmental Health



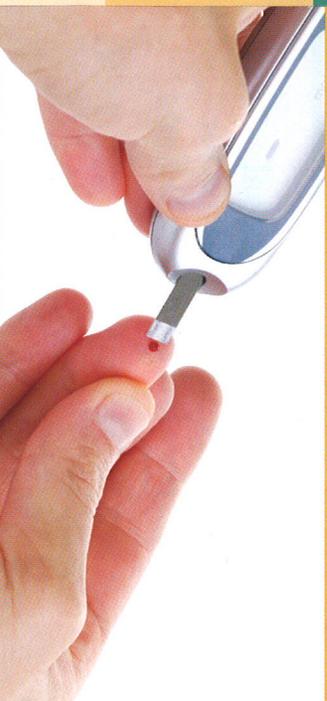
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- Sharps are:**
- Needles
 - Syringes
 - Lancets

... or any other device used for injection of medication or blood tests on people or pets



Used sharps can pose a serious threat by:

- Injuring waste workers, health care providers, children, and animals
- Spreading diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, Tetanus, and Syphilis

It is illegal to:

- Put sharps in trash or recycling containers
- Flush sharps down the toilet

Store sharps in approved sharps containers



Or in a rigid, puncture resistant, tightly sealed container, including:

- bleach bottles
- liquid detergent bottles
- coffee cans with lids

Do not store in:

- paper or plastic bags
- glass containers
- cardboard or coated paper containers
- plastic bottles that have a CRV, California Redemption Value
- milk jugs

To dispose of sharps and sharps containers

- Ask your health care provider or pharmacist if they take back used needles, lancets and syringes.
- Take your sharps to a household hazardous waste collection facility near you (visit www.wastefreed.org for locations)
- Consider using a "mail-back" service for proper disposal. For a list of mail-back service companies, visit www.cdph.ca.gov/certific/medicalwaste (fees apply)

For more information, contact the County of San Diego Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at: **1-877-R-1-EARTH (877-713-2784)** or go online to: www.wastefreed.org

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