



## SAFE DISPOSAL OF SYRINGES AND SHARPS (HOME GENERATED)

**Hypodermic needles, syringes, and other sharps potentially transmit diseases.**

### Containerize:

1. Syringes/needles and other sharps should be placed in a hard opaque plastic bottle or metal puncture resistant container (**no larger than 1 gal**) with a screw on cap such as a used bleach bottle.
2. When full, tape the cap or lid onto the container with duct tape. Write the word "Sharps" on the outside of the container.

### Dispose:

Ask the pharmacy or supplier where the sharps were purchased if they will take back the sharps, drop them off at a collection point listed below or purchase a mail back container. **As of September 1, 2008, the California Health Safety Code Section 118286 prohibits the disposal of home generated sharps in the garbage.**

### Home-Generated Sharps Collection Points (no charge):

Merced County Division of Environmental Health  
260 E. 15th Street, Merced, CA  
Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00-5:00

Merced County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility  
6040 N Highway 59 Merced, CA  
Hours: Call 723-4753 or 381-1100 for hours

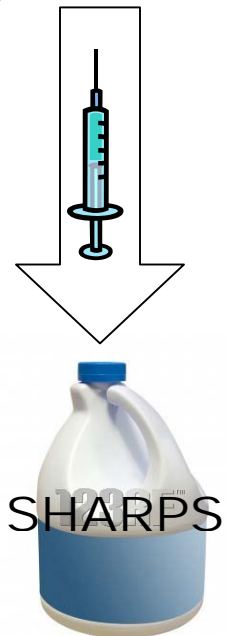
Other sites may be added in the future.

Definitions:

<p><b>Home Generation:</b> Generated by an individual for personal use.  <b>Sharps:</b> Are hypodermic needles, syringes and lancets.  Also other sharp objects that can puncture or cut and potentially transmit disease should be treated as sharps.</p>
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- DO NOT** throw needles & syringes in the trash.
- DO NOT** break or bend needles.
- DO NOT** recap needles.
- DO NOT** use glass containers like a drink bottle.
- DO NOT** use containers that will be recycled or returned to a store like soda bottles.
- DO NOT** use clear plastic containers.

For more information contact Merced County Division of Environmental Health (209) 381-1100.



Use container no larger than 1 gallon

# PROPER SHARPS DISPOSAL



***OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC  
Monday, Wednesday  
and Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Saturday  
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Closed Sunday and Holidays***

Landfill / HHW site

N. HWY 59

Bellevue Ave.

MERCED COUNTY  
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION  
FACILITY

Division of Environmental Health  
6040 N. HWY 59  
Merced, CA 95340

Phone: 209-723-4753  
Or 209- 381-1100

In Merced County over 15,000,000 medically prescribed syringes (sharps) are generated each year. These sharps become medical waste which must be properly disposed. These used sharps, which may be infected with AIDS or Hepatitis, are a serious threat to anyone who may come in contact with them.

The Merced County Division of Environmental Health accepts medically prescribed sharps at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility free of charge. You must transport your sharps to the facility which is located at the landfill on North HWY 59, in Merced. To ensure that everyone involved does not get injured by the sharps, do the following:

- Place sharps in a hard plastic jug or metal can with a secure lid.
- Do not put sharps in the garbage.
- Ask for a sharps disposal container from Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility personnel.

