



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

Hypodermic needles, syringes, and other sharps potentially transmit diseases. The California Health Safety Code Section 118286 prohibits throwing away home-generated sharps.

### Dispose of them safely and properly by doing the following:

- Ask your pharmacy, hospital or supplier if they take back the sharps,
- Drop them off at a site listed below,
- Purchase a mail-back container.

**Home Generation**=Generated by an individual for personal use.  
**Sharps**=Hypodermic needles, syringes and lancets. Other sharp objects that can puncture /cut and potentially transmit disease should be treated as sharps.

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

#### A) MERCED COUNTY DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

260 E. 15th Street, Merced, CA | (209) 381-1100

Monday – Friday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

##### Directions:

- Syringes/needles/other sharps should be placed in a hard, opaque (not clear) plastic bottle or puncture-resistant metal container (**no larger than 1 gal**) with a screw on cap such as a used bleach or water softener bottle.
- When full, duct tape the cap to the container. Write the word “Sharps” on the outside of the container, and bring container to the above address during the times stated.



Use containers no larger than 1 gallon.

#### B) MERCED COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

700 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Merced, CA | (209) 385-7444

Any day / Any time

##### Directions:

- Wrap the sharps in a material to prevent needles from being able to “stick” someone.
- Label the outside as “Sharps” and drop off inside the designated “Meds” kiosk outside the office. (Note: slot size may restrict large containers/bundles of sharps from fitting; prescription medication is also accepted at this site.)



**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, like soda bottles.  
**DO NOT** use clear plastic containers.