

SHARPS

A HOME GUIDE TO SYRINGE DISPOSAL

Sharps is the term used to describe any item that is capable of puncturing the skin such as carpules, needles, lancets, suture needles, endo files, etc.

Sharps users can take their own Sharps containers $\frac{3}{4}$ full with used needles to appropriate collections sites: doctor's offices, hospitals, pharmacies, health departments. Resident of the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles can dispose of filled containers at any of the City of Los Angeles Solvents, Automotives, Flammables and Electronics (SAFE) collection Centers. For locations and hours of operation please visit the Bureau of Sanitation of the City of Los Angeles website at:

http://www.lacity.org/SAN/solid_resources/special/hhw/safe_centers/index.htm

DANGERS OF IMPROPER DISPOSAL

When thrown into the regular trash, recycling container, or green waste container, Sharps can injure sanitation workers. In addition, the liquid remaining in Sharps may seep into and contaminate our groundwater and/or ocean we swim in.

CORRECT METHOD TO MANAGE SHARPS

Use either an approved Sharps container or a metal coffee can (*Don't use empty water bottles*) Keep your container out of reach of small children and pets!

NEVER flush your syringes or medications down the toilet!

Don't fill your container to the top! Allow two to three inches in-between the syringes or lancets and the top of the container.

Put a lid on it! After you use a syringe or lancet, put it directly into your approved Sharps container, with a tight cap or lid.

Once it is $\frac{3}{4}$ full, find out which disposal method is best for you,

Return *sealed container* to your physician;

Return *sealed container* to your pharmacy;

Deliver *sealed container* or other securable container (such as coffee container, plastic laundry container) to a mobile event, or S.A.F.E. center;

B U T Don't put the sealed container into your household trash, recycling bin, or Green Waste bin!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Learn more about lancets, Syringe, needle and other Sharps disposal, City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation Household Hazardous Waste Programs by calling the Bureau of Sanitation Hotline at 800 773-CITY (2489)

Or by visiting the following web sites @: <http://www.lacity.org/SAN/index.htm> or www.earth911.org