

Needles/Sharps

Household Hazardous Waste

Home-generated sharps waste should be disposed of properly to protect you and your community. **The improper disposal of sharps can cause harm to you, your children, and recycling center workers.** Further, it is illegal to dispose of home-generated sharps waste in the trash or recycling containers or to flush them down the toilet.

Can I dispose of my home-generated needles/sharps in my trash can?

No. California law prohibits the disposal of needles/sharps waste, including needles, syringes and lancets, in the regular trash or recycling bin. **Protect your family and others by properly recycling all needles/sharps.**

Home-generated sharps include:

Hypodermic needles
Pen needles
Intravenous needles
Lancets

Any devices used to penetrate the skin & deliver medication.

How can I properly recycle needles/sharps?

- Needles/sharps should be transported to a proper collection center in a **rigid, puncture-resistant, tightly-sealed container**, including: bleach bottles, or coffee cans with lids.
- Containers should be no larger than 2 liters or 1/2 gallon.
- Label the container “Needles” or “Sharps” before disposing of it at an approved residential needles/sharps collection drop boxes or at your local household hazardous waste collection facility. **Labeling the container with a thick black marker will allow for quick identification** of the contents. Red needles/sharps containers can also be purchased at a local pharmacy.

Do not put needles/sharps in: paper or plastic bags, glass containers, cardboard or coated paper containers, plastic bottles that have a CRV (California Redemption Value), or milk jugs.



Where can I recycle a container with needles/sharps?

Containers can be dropped off for free at needles/sharps kiosks found throughout San Diego County, to find the nearest kiosk search **“Sharps” or “Needles”** For large amount of needles/sharps, schedule a drop-off appointment at your local household hazardous waste collection facility.