



Protect Yourself, Protect Others

Safe Options for Home Needle Disposal



A 44-year-old trash collector was stuck in the leg with a needle from someone's trash. A year later, he started having stomach pains. His doctor told him that he had contracted Hepatitis C, probably from being stuck by the needle. Doctors have not been able to help him, and he is now in chronic liver failure. He will likely die from this disease.

It's not just trash workers who are at risk of needle sticks – it's also your neighbors, children, janitors, housekeepers, and pets. That's why used needles should not be thrown in the garbage.



Effective September 1, 2008, Senate Bill 1305 prohibits disposal of home generated SHARPS in solid waste and recycling containers.

City of Calabasas residents are encouraged to use local options, such as low-cost disposal kits from a nearby pharmacy. These disposal kits contain instructions for use and return so that the waste can be properly destroyed.

Some hospitals accept SHARPS from their patients.

Visit the California Integrated Waste Management Board for more information:
<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov>

Why are used needles dangerous?

Used needles and lancets are dangerous because they can:

- Injure people
- Spread germs
- Spread diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, tetanus and syphilis

All needles should be treated as if they carry a disease. That means that if someone gets stuck with a needle, they have to get expensive medical tests and worry about whether they have contracted a harmful or deadly disease. Be sure to get rid of your used needles the safe way to avoid exposing other people to harm.



Loose needles in trash

DON'T

Throw loose needles in the garbage

Flush used needles down the toilet

DO

Use a government approved method to dispose of needles.

Remember, not all of the options listed in this brochure are available in all areas. Check carefully to see what options are available near you—it could save a life!

Most pharmacies carry SHARPS disposal kits.

S.A.F.E. Collection Centers also accept SHARPS, in either a proper disposal kit or in container that will not puncture, such as a detergent bottle. The container must be clearly labeled "SHARPS". The nearest S.A.F.E. Centers are:

Sun Valley: RANDALL STREET
11025 Randall Street
Sun Valley, CA 91352
Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

West Los Angeles: UCLA
550 Charles E. Young Drive West
Los Angeles, CA 90095
Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays
8:00 am – 2:00 pm

For Information, please call 1-800-98-TOXIC (1-800-988-6942)

