

Safe Disposal of Home-Generated Sharps

Every year, Californians use hundreds of millions of sharps, such as needles, syringes, and lancets, to administer medications. These items should never be thrown in the trash or flushed down the toilet. Improper disposal poses serious risks, especially to sanitation and waste management workers who may be injured while handling household waste.

Safe disposal of sharps helps to:

- Prevent injuries
- Reduce the spread of infectious diseases like Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV
- Protect public safety and waste management workers

Where should I put my used sharps?

Used sharps must be placed in designated, puncture-proof containers. These containers are designed to safely contain hazardous materials, protecting both the community and the environment. You can pick up a FREE sharps container at countywide Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Electronic Waste (E-Waste) Collection Events. Another option is to use a sturdy, leakproof, puncture-resistant container - just be sure to seal it, tape it, and label it "SHARPS".

How can I safely dispose of sharps generated at home?

Los Angeles County residents have several safe disposal options:

- 20 participating Los Angeles County Sheriff stations
- Countywide HHW and E-waste collection [events](#)
- Two permanent centers: [Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center \(AVECC\)](#) and [EDCO Transfer and Recycling Center](#)
- City of Los Angeles [S.A.F.E. Centers](#)
- Participating Public Health offices

No transportation? No problem.

Californians can order FREE sharps containers with prepaid mail-back options. These FDA-approved mail-back containers allow for safe collection and transport. Learn more at sharpstakebackcalifornia.org or call (844) 4-TAKE-BACK.

For more information on approved disposal sites and proper sharps disposal, or to find a location near you, visit <https://cleanla.lacounty.gov/> or call (888) CLEAN-LA.