

SHARPS®



SHARPS DISPOSAL BY MAIL Implementation of SB 1305



Millions of Americans use needles (sharps) to regularly inject prescription medications. The EPA adopted new guidelines to direct residents to seek alternate means of waste disposal to stem this growing national public health safety problem.

- 10 million Americans self-inject legal medications (over 3%)
- Annual double digit growth rate in self-injector population
 - Aging population
 - Increase in diabetes
 - Drug companies developing new treatments



- Over three billion syringes are discarded into the public solid waste stream every year:
 - In coffee cans
 - In plastic bottles
 - Directly into trash
 - Into trash recycling containers
 - Into the toilet



- 2 billion syringes are from legal self-injections
- 1 billion are from intravenous Drug User (IDU)
- There are 4.1 million people with Hep C
- Hep C is growing at a rate of 30% annually
- 60% of new Hep C cases are IDU's
- 50% of IDU syringes are used diabetic syringes
- New cases of HIV and HBV additional cost annually

* Johns Hopkins study



Recommended Needle Disposal



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 caught 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.

Why are used needles dangerous?

Used needles and syringes 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 caught a harmful or deadly disease. Be sure you get rid of your used needles the safe way to avoid exposing other people to harm.



Discard needles in trash

DON'T

- Throw loose needles in the garbage
- Flush used needles down the toilet
- Put needles in recycling containers

DO

- Use one of the recommended disposal methods in this brochure

However, 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!



- EPA has new guidelines to eliminate unsafe disposal solutions

- The new guidelines reflect the results of the ongoing educational efforts of the *Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal*

- Ways to handle home-generated sharps
 - Drop-off collection sites
 - Household hazardous waste collection sites
 - Residential special waste pickup services
 - Mail-back programs
 - Syringe exchange programs
 - Home needle destruction devices
- Communities may implement several options



SB 1305 signed into law in 2006:

- Prohibits disposal of home-generated sharps in solid waste and recycling containers
- Ban starts September 2008
- Communities are encouraged to implement programs
- Mail-back system is one program to consider implementing and promote prior to the ban



The Sharps Disposal by Mail System®:

- Containers available to residents at local pharmacies
- Resident fills container with used sharps
- Resident mails container to Sharps Compliance in postage pre-paid mailing box



Benefits of Disposal by Mail:

- Convenient (local pharmacy distribution)
- Containers are part of JIT inventory
- Transportation via the U.S. Postal Service
- Access to proper disposal directly from home (vs. storing sharps and driving to drop-off sites)
- Protects privacy



Cost Effective Program for Residents:

- Sharps Compliance can help set up a “Group Plan” for your community
- Containers can be dispensed by participating pharmacies at no cost or for a small co-pay to users
- Ex: allow 3 containers per year per resident
- First container FREE, second and third containers cost \$5 co-pay

How the Program Works:

- Product dispensed by pharmacies
- Pharmacies will bill for reimbursement through a third-party administrator (just like a prescription drug plan)
- unique group number assigned
- Fund and billing mechanism must be established with the community
- Reports available through third-party administrator (no names are divulged)



- **Mail Back Programs in California:**
 - Mission Viejo
 - Laguna Beach
 - Lake County
 - Indian Wells
 - Diamond Bar
 - Indio
 - Dana Point
 - L.A. County (a portion of unincorporated area)
 - Inglewood
 - Baldwin Park
 - Cathedral City
 - Lancaster
 - Beaumont
 - La Quinta
 - San Dimas
- **Approved but Not Implemented**
 - Santa Ana

- Program implemented January 2007 through pharmacies in Lake County
- Program underwritten by Lake County Public Services Department
- During 2007 a total of 260 containers were dispensed through the pharmacies
- By January 2008, 49.2% had already been treated



- Protects family and community
- Easy to use
- Convenient
- Confidential
- Cost-effective
- Access to safe disposal from the privacy of their home



- Hands-off approach – no administration, monitoring, inventory management
- No additional permitting or training (HHW drop-off sites)
- Environmentally conscious solution
- Confidential – HIPPA laws
- Compliant with EPA guidelines and new pending legislation



SHARPS DISPOSAL BY MAIL SYSTEM®:

For More Information:

Patricia Kimball, PhD

480-595-5974

pkimball@sharpsinc.com

Or

Jack McGurk

916-947-0884

jackmcgurk@aol.com