

Needles/Sharps

Do Riverside County Landfills accept this waste?

Yes

No

(See Disposal Locations)

Conditionally

(See Special Conditions)

Case by case

(See Approval Process)

Are there other alternatives for this waste?

Yes

(See Alternative Recycling Locations)

No



Definition

Section 117671 of the California Health and Safety code defines "home-generated sharps waste" as hypodermic needles, pen needles, intravenous needles, lancets, and other devices that are used to penetrate the skin for the delivery of medications derived from a household, including a multifamily residence or household.

Sharps Disposal Law

Beginning September 1, 2008, it became illegal to dispose of home-generated Needles (Sharps) in the trash or recycling containers, and requires that all sharps waste be transported to a collection center in an approved sharps container. This law was created to help prevent potential health risks to landfill and material recovery facility workers.

DO NOT dispose of sharps in any curbside recycling or waste container

Household Hazardous Waste Program (HHW)

Riverside County Household Hazardous Waste Program—Riverside County residents must place their sharps waste in a secure approved sharps container and bring to a Household Hazardous Waste collection for disposal. Free biohazard labels are available at the HHW events or by phone 951-486-3200 or the labels can be printed directly from our website:

http://www.rivcowm.org/opencms/hhw/index.html#_HHW_Collection_Locations

These labels allow residents to make their own approved container from sturdy plastic bottles from home.

Pharmaceuticals are NOT accepted at HHW collections.

Alternative Recycling Locations and Options

The following are some of the disposal options available to dispose of home-generated sharps.

•Pharmacies—some drug store chains take back their customers needles, please check with your individual pharmacy for more information. Visit: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/homehazwaste/healthcare/collection/default.aspx>

Hans Kernkamp,
General Manager-
Chief Engineer
14310 Frederick St.
Moreno Valley, CA
92553
(951) 486-3200
www.rivcowm.org

Alternative Recycling Locations and Options

- Mail-Back Service—A list of sharps waste mail-back services authorized for use in California may be found at:
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/medicalwaste/Documents/MedicalWaste/SharpsMailBackList.pdf>
- City Hall or Waste Hauler may have programs for residents.
- Hospital or pharmacy Take Back, please contact your local hospital or pharmacy for more information.
- Additional mail-back programs and resources located at Earth911.com.
<http://www.Earth911.com>

This information is offered as a public service in an effort to eliminate illegal and improper waste disposal. As the information may not be comprehensive, the Department encourages the public to research additional companies that are available for the services sought. The companies are not affiliated, endorsed or regulated by the Department. Accordingly, as with any professional service, please confirm the accuracy of the company's information and request copies or verification of the company's license and/or permits to provide the service, prior to utilizing its services. Under no circumstances, directly or indirectly, shall the Department be held responsible or liable for reliance on this information. If you would like to include your company on the list, please contact wasteapproval@co.riverside.ca.us or call (951) 486-3200.