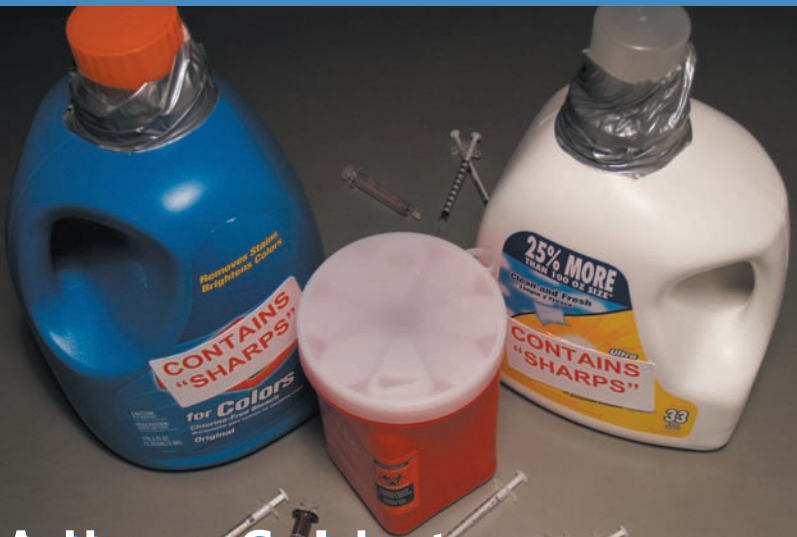




City of Los Angeles  
Department of Public Works • Bureau of Sanitation



# A Home Guide to Syringe Disposal (SHARPS)

City of Los Angeles  
Department of Public Works  
Bureau of Sanitation  
Solid Resources Citywide  
Recycling Division

1-800-98-TOXIC  
(1-800-988-6942)

[www.lacity.org/san](http://www.lacity.org/san)



"Don't just  
stand there,  
recycle  
something!"  
-Recycle Robot

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

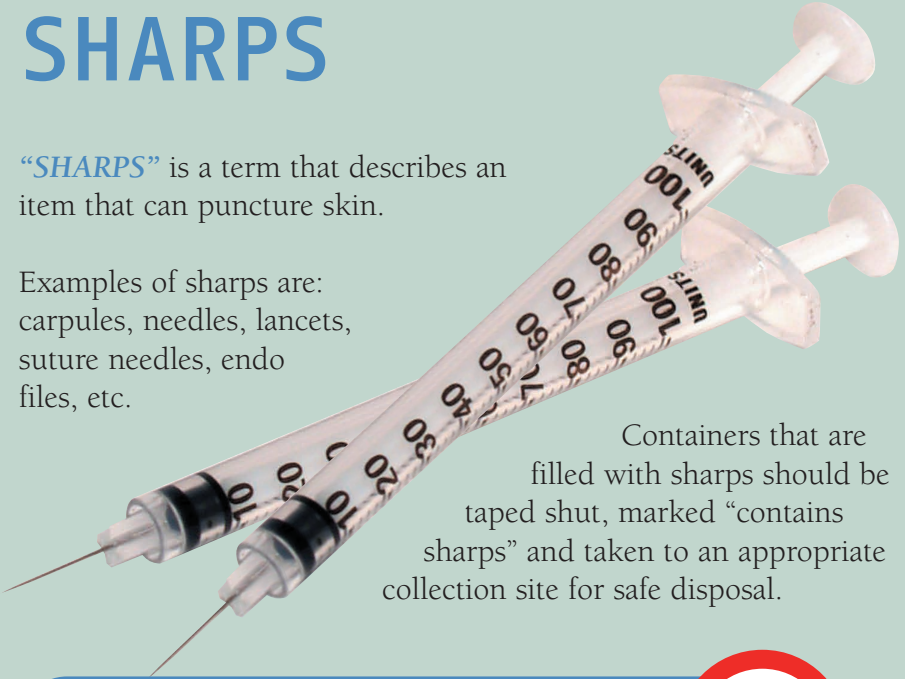


**SANITATION**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS

# SHARPS

“*SHARPS*” is a term that describes an item that can puncture skin.

Examples of sharps are: carpules, needles, lancets, suture needles, endo files, etc.



Containers that are filled with sharps should be taped shut, marked “contains sharps” and taken to an appropriate collection site for safe disposal.

*Beginning September 1, 2008 home-generated sharps can no longer be thrown in the trash.*



## Dangers of Improper Disposal

You can injure sanitation workers when you toss sharps into the regular trash, recycling container or green waste container. Leftover liquid in syringes can seep into and contaminate the groundwater from which we drink and/or the ocean from which we derive our fish and other seafood.



# How To Safely Manage SHARPS

- **NEVER DISPOSE OF SHARPS IN THE TRASH – IT IS ILLEGAL EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2008.**
- Use only an approved Sharps container or a rigid, puncture resistant container, secured with a screw top such as: a bleach bottle or laundry detergent bottle. Please put tape over the cap and write “contains Sharps”
- **Do not use empty water bottles as these are made of flimsy plastic that SHARPS can puncture through!**
- Keep your SHARPS container out of reach of children and pets.
- **Do not fill your container to the top!** Allow two to three inches of space in-between the syringes or lancets and the top of the container.
- **Put a lid on it!** After you use a syringe or lancet, put it directly into your Sharps container. Use a tight cap or lid for your sharps container.

**NEVER** flush your syringes or medications down the toilet!



Once your sharps container is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, secure the cap or lid, put tape over the cap and write on the container “CONTAINS SHARPS.” Safely dispose of it by doing any of the following:

- 1 Return the **sealed container** to your **physician**
- 2 Return the **sealed container** to your participating **pharmacy**
- 3 Bring your **sealed container** to a **Household Hazardous Waste Mobile event** or to a **S.A.F.E. center.**

Call 800-988-6942 for more information regarding Mobile events and/or S.A.F.E. Centers near you.

**SAFETY ALERT!**

**DO NOT** toss your sealed sharps containers into your black trash bin, blue recycling bin or green waste bin!





## For More Information

To learn more about how to safely manage and dispose of lancets, syringes, needles and other Sharps:

Call the Bureau of Sanitation Hotline at

**(800) 98-TOXIC**

(800) 988-6942

or

Call the City of Los Angeles Information Line at

**3-1-1**

or

Go online to:

[www.lacity.org/SAN/index.htm](http://www.lacity.org/SAN/index.htm)

[www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org) or [www.cleanla.com](http://www.cleanla.com)

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