

# HOW TO HANDLE HOME GENERATED SHARPS

- SHARPS is a term used to describe an item that can puncture skin such as needles (hypodermic, suture), syringes, carpules, lancets, endo files, prefilled pens, etc.
- Effective September 1, 2008, it became illegal to dispose of SHARPS in the trash or in the landfill. Improperly discarded used needles pose a serious risk of injury and even infection to unsuspecting workers, family members and pets at homes, workplaces and public areas. Used needles can transmit numerous blood-borne pathogens, including HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, as well as hepatitis B and C.
- The City of Los Angeles is negotiating partnerships with retail stores and pharmacies to accept SHARPS from City residents for safe handling and proper disposal.
- The SHARPS containers for home generated SHARPS are available free of charge at all City's SAFE collection centers and mobile events.
- The City of Los Angeles operates six Solvents, Automotives, Flammables, and Electronics (S.A.F.E.) collection centers located through out the City of Los Angeles and conducts mobile events located in areas where S.A.F.E. centers are not available. Both the S.A.F.E. centers and mobile events accept SHARPS from the City residents for safe handling and proper disposal.

For a S.A.F.E. center location near you or  
up-coming mobile event, please call

**1.800.98.TOXIC** **OR** **3.1.1**

Or visit our website at

<http://www.lacity.org/SAN/index.htm>