



**DO:**

- Use an FDA-approved disposal container
- Bring full containers to a Sharps Drop-off Point

**DON'T:**

- Throw loose needles in the trash
- Flush needles down the toilet
- Put needles in recycling bins
- Put sharps containers in trash or recycling bins

## How You Can Help

- ☑ Ask your doctor, pharmacist, and whomever you buy sharps from to offer take-back
- ☑ Look for local businesses that already provide sharps collection and give your business to them



For more information on proper sharps management or to find outlets that sell sharps containers:

Call (707) 465-1100



Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority  
Kevin Hendrick, Director  
Phone: (707) 456-1100  
Web: <http://www.recycledelnorte.ca.gov>



California Product Stewardship Council  
Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director  
Phone: (916) 706-3420  
Web: <http://calpsc.org>

# Don't Throw Sharps in the Trash!



## How to Dispose of Needles and Lancets in Del Norte County



**CPSC**  
California Product Stewardship Council



# The Problem

## 936 Million & Counting...

In California, 936,000,000 needles and syringes are used in California outside of healthcare settings. 80% of the needles discarded are generated by the more than 486,000 individuals who self-inject insulin daily.\*

Of particular concern is the growing number of Americans using injectable medications to treat diseases such as diabetes, arthritis, migraines, infertility, blood disorders, and for those who medicate pets and livestock. There are relatively few pharmacies, hospitals, physicians and veterinarians offices that will accept sharps as compared to the many distributors of sharps.

\*data from CalRecycle presentation 1/18/12



The price tag keeps growing for communities like ours who are trying to keep toxic and hazardous products out of the landfill.



Improperly disposed sharps are a health threat. Needles illegally disposed in trash or recycling bins or flushed down toilets pose health risks to children, sanitation workers, water treatment facility operators and the general public.

It's illegal to throw sharps in trash or recycling bins.



# Steps to Dispose of Sharps Safely & Legally

### 1. Get an approved container for your sharps.

Ask your pharmacist or veterinarian if they sell sharps containers. If you have sharps to dispose, you need to obtain an FDA-approved sharps container. **Bleach bottles and tin cans are no longer acceptable.**

### 2. Carefully place used sharps into container.

Use the sharps container as directed. If the container has no directions, carefully place items in the container sharp-end first.

Do not fill any sharps container more than 3/4 full.

### 3. When full, bring the sharps container to a sharps drop-off point.

There is a drop-off receptacle for FREE disposal of home-generated sharps inside the *Del Norte County Transfer Station at 1700 State Street, Crescent City.* Enter over the scale and tell the gate attendant that you have sharps from home.

\*\* data from California Dept. of Public Health & UC San Francisco report "Diabetes in California Counties", April 2009

The Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority (DNSWMA) is working to establish other sharps drop-off points to make proper sharps disposal more convenient for you. Call 465-1100 for other drop-off locations.

*Del Norte County has nearly 1,300 diabetics disposing of sharps daily. \*\* Every diabetic should know how to properly contain and dispose of their sharps.*

### 4. Buy pre-paid mail-back sharps containers.

Mail your mail-back container directly from your home to the address on the shipping label or to the supplier you purchased it from.

