

## Protect yourself, children, pets, sanitation workers, and the environment

- Never put used sharps in the trash, recycling bins, or green waste containers.
- Never flush them down the toilet.
- Never place sharps in used soda cans, milk cartons or bottles, glass or plastic bottles, or coffee cans.
- Never fill the certified disposable container more than 3/4 full.
- Never place non-sharps items such as wound dressings, pills, or other medications in your sharps container.
- Never recycle used sharps!

Even if you are at work, at school, traveling, or in other public places such as hotels, parks, and restaurants, California State law makes it illegal to dispose of sharps in trash, recycling bins, green waste containers, and toilets. Please be pro-active. If you use sharps away from home, keep a certified sharps travel container with you.



**If you use sharps, please protect yourself, the environment, and others from potential harm by using certified sharps containers.**

### For more information:

#### Dinuba

Website: [www.dinuba.org](http://www.dinuba.org)  
Sharps Information: 559.591.5924

#### Exeter

Website: [www.cityofexeter.com](http://www.cityofexeter.com)  
Sharps Information: 559.592.2523

#### Farmersville

Website: [www.cityoffarmersville-ca.gov](http://www.cityoffarmersville-ca.gov)  
Sharps Information: 559.747.0458

#### Lindsay

Website: [www.Lindsay.ca.us](http://www.Lindsay.ca.us)  
Sharps Information: 559.562.7102

#### Porterville

Website: [www.ci.porterville.ca.us](http://www.ci.porterville.ca.us)  
Sharps Information: 559.782.7514

#### Tulare

Website: [www.ci.tulare.ca.us](http://www.ci.tulare.ca.us)  
Sharps Information: 559.684.4325

#### Visalia

Website: [www.GoGreenVisalia.com](http://www.GoGreenVisalia.com)  
Email: [nronline@ci.visalia.ca.us](mailto:nronline@ci.visalia.ca.us)  
Sharps Information: 559.713.4531

#### Tulare County

Website: [www.tularecountyrecycles.com](http://www.tularecountyrecycles.com)  
Email: [tcsolidwaste@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:tcsolidwaste@co.tulare.ca.us)  
Sharps Information: 559.624.7195

#### Consolidated Waste Management Authority

Website: [www.cwmarecycles.com](http://www.cwmarecycles.com)  
Email: [info@cwmarecycles.com](mailto:info@cwmarecycles.com)  
Sharps Information: 559.713.4404

# Protect Yourself and Others



## Dispose used sharps properly



## What are sharps?

"Sharps" are any devices, such as syringes, used to penetrate the skin for the purpose of delivering medication for people or pets. Other sharps include injection pens, pen needles, and lancets.

## Improper disposal of sharps creates serious health hazards

Illegal disposal of used sharps, such as flushing down toilets or dumping in trash bins, can allow unused medication to seep into groundwater or spread disease through accidental injury. Injured people can contract infectious diseases and may require years of testing for HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, etc. Improper disposal puts sanitation and waste-water treatment workers, children, pets, and you, at risk.

## What's the solution?

1. If you use sharps, purchase a certified sharps disposal container.
2. Always place used sharps into your container immediately after use.
3. Never fill the container more than 3/4 full.
4. Once the container is 3/4 full, seal the lid and take the container to the retailer from whom you bought your sharps.



## What is a sharps retailer?

A sharps retailer is any person or business that sells sharps to the public, such as clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, pet stores, veterinarians, and farm supply stores.

## What are the obligations of sharps retailers within the County of Tulare?

- Sharps retailers are required to accept home-generated sharps waste in a sealed, certified container at no cost to the consumer.
- Sharps retailers are required to accept from a customer the same amount of sharps waste as being sold, or previously sold, to the consumer. The sharps retailer may require proof of purchase.
- In addition, sharps retailers are also required to accept sharps not sold by the retailer, from customers who reside within the county of Tulare, in an amount equal to no more than a total of one 2 quart-size sharps container per week.

## What is a certified sharps disposal container?

Ask your pharmacist or other sharps retailer if they carry certified sharps containers, or an all-in-one container. All-in-one containers, such as the green UltiCare shown below, contain the newly purchased sharps, but feature a compartment in which the sharps can be safely stored after use.



Use only approved sharps containers.



Common household containers are not safe or legal for sharps disposal.

## Are some sharps not accepted?

Yes. Used sharps from businesses such as hospitals, assisted living and rehab facilities, clinics, doctors, dentists, tattoo and body treatment salons/parlors, veterinarians, pet stores, etc., will not be accepted by sharps retailers.

**Disposal of sharps containers at a sharps retailer is FREE**