

# SSOUTH TAHOE REFUSE COMPANY, INC.

## *Tips on Safe Disposal of Home-Generated Needles and Other Sharps*

Every year, Americans use over one billion sharp objects in their homes to administer health care. These "sharps" include lancets, needles and syringes. On September 1, 2008, California state law (Section 118286 of the California Health and Safety Code) made it illegal to disposal of sharps in the trash or recycling containers. In Nevada, it is not illegal to place needles in your trash container. However, isolating them in puncture resistant containers and dropping them off at the South Tahoe Refuse Transfer Station will reduce unnecessary exposure to our local solid waste workers and to workers at the regional landfill as well.

***YOU*** can help prevent injury and protect our environment by following some simple steps when you dispose of your home health care "sharps". The solutions are simple and sensible. This is what we suggest.

- When purchasing needles from your local pharmacy, either:
  - Purchase mail-in needle storage containers, or
  - Purchase approved red plastic medical waste containers to store needles
- If you cannot purchase storage containers, place and store used needles in a sturdy plastic container, such as a gallon orange juice container. Place a red bio-hazard sticker on it or mark **X**s on it with a red marking pen. California law defines a sharps container as a rigid puncture-resistant container that, when sealed, is leak resistant and cannot be reopened without great difficulty.
- Do not break the needles off. They become less visible and are still an exposure risk if the container breaks open. Recap the needles before placing them in the storage container.
- Keep containers with sharp objects out of the reach of young children.
- **When your container is 3/4 full, close it securely**, using either the locking lid or duct tape. Forcing needles into a full container can cause injury.
- To dispose of the container:
  - Use your mail away program or
  - **Bring your containerized needles to the South Tahoe Refuse Transfer Station on Monday through Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We will handle them separately and safely, or**
  - If you are unable to come by the Transfer Station, place your secured container on the top of the garbage in your can so that it can be retrieved safely by our personnel. Wait until the morning of your pickup to put sharps containers out with your garbage.

This needle consolidation program is part of the **Household Hazardous Waste Program** at STR. Both California and Nevada residents of the South Lake Tahoe area can also drop off paints, oils, solvents, flammable liquids, cleaners, pesticides and other materials that can contaminate our environment.

**There is no charge to residents for these programs and no paperwork is involved.** If you need to make special arrangements, call 542-8366 and ask for Jeanne Lear.

***Thank you in advance for your attention to the safe disposal of sharps.***  
**[southtahoerefuse.com](http://southtahoerefuse.com)**

# SIERRA DISPOSAL SERVICE

## *Tips on Safe Disposal of Home-Generated Needles and Other Sharps*

Every year, Americans use over one billion sharp objects in their homes to administer health care. These "sharps" include lancets, needles and syringes. On September 1, 2008, California state law (Section 118286 of the California Health and Safety Code) made it illegal to disposal of sharps in the trash, recycling or green waste containers. Isolating them in puncture resistant containers and dropping them off at the Waste Connections Transfer Station will reduce unnecessary exposure to our local solid waste workers and to workers at the regional landfill as well.

***YOU*** can help prevent injury and protect our environment by following some simple steps when you dispose of your home health care "sharps". The solutions are simple and sensible. This is what we suggest.

- When purchasing needles from your local pharmacy, either:
  - Purchase mail-in needle storage containers, or
  - Purchase approved red plastic medical waste containers to store needles
- If you cannot purchase storage containers, place and store used needles in a sturdy plastic container, such as a gallon orange juice container. Place a red bio-hazard sticker on it or mark **X**s on it with a red marking pen. California law defines a sharps container as a rigid puncture-resistant container that, when sealed, is leak resistant and cannot be reopened without great difficulty.
- Do not break the needles off. They become less visible and are still an exposure risk if the container breaks open. Recap the needles before placing them in the storage container.
- Keep containers with sharp objects out of the reach of young children.
- **When your container is 3/4 full, close it securely**, using either the locking lid or duct tape. Forcing needles into a full container can cause injury.
- To dispose of the container:
  - Use your mail away program or
  - **Bring your containerized needles to the Waste Connections Transfer Station, Monday through Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We will handle them separately and safely, or**
  - If you are unable to come by the Transfer Station, place your secured container on the top of the garbage in your can so that it can be retrieved safely by our personnel. Wait until the morning of your pickup to put sharps containers out with your garbage. You are liable for your sharps.

This needle consolidation program is part of the **Household Hazardous Waste Program** at STR. Both California and Nevada residents of the South Lake Tahoe area can also drop off paints, oils, solvents, flammable liquids, cleaners, pesticides and other materials that can contaminate our environment. **There is no charge to residents for these programs and no paperwork is involved.** If you need to make special arrangements, call 542-8366 and ask for Jeanne Lear.

***Thank you in advance for your attention to the safe disposal of sharps.***  
**[southtahoerefuse.com](http://southtahoerefuse.com)**

# DOUGLAS DISPOSAL, INC.



## *Tips on Safe Disposal of Home-Generated Needles and Other Sharps*

Every year, Americans use over one billion sharp objects in their homes to administer health care. These "sharps" include lancets, needles and syringes. If they are not disposed of in puncture-resistant containers, they can cause injury and also create environmental problems.

**YOU** can help prevent injury and protect our environment by following some simple steps when you dispose of your home health care "sharps". The solutions are simple and sensible. This is what we suggest.

- When purchasing needles from your local pharmacy, either:
  - Purchase mail-in needle storage containers, or
  - Purchase approved red plastic medical waste containers to store needles
- If you cannot purchase storage containers, place and store used needles in an empty plastic container. Mark the container with a **red** marking pen. A sharps container should be a rigid puncture-resistant container, such as an orange juice jug, that, when sealed, is leak resistant and cannot be reopened without great difficulty. Use duct tape to seal the container.
- Do not break the needles off. They become less visible and are still an exposure risk if the container breaks open. Replace the cap before placing them in the storage container.
- Make sure that you keep containers with sharp objects out of the reach of young children.
- **When your container is 3/4 full, close it using either the locking lid or duct tape the lid on securely.** Forcing needles into a full container can cause injury.
- To dispose of the container:
  - Use your mail away program or
  - **Put container on top of your trash in your garbage can.**

**Thank you** in advance for your attention to the safe disposal of sharps. It is not illegal to place needles in your trash container. However, your cooperation will reduce unnecessary exposure to our local solid waste workers and to workers at the regional landfill as well. Questions? Call Douglas Disposal, Inc., at 782-5713.

## California Health and Safety Code

118275. To containerize or store medical waste, a person shall do all of the following:

(a) Medical waste shall be contained separately from other waste at the point of origin in the producing facility. Sharps containers may be placed in biohazard bags or in containers with biohazard bags.

(b) Biohazardous waste, except biohazardous waste as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 117635, shall be placed in a red biohazard bag conspicuously labeled with the words "Biohazardous Waste" or with the international biohazard symbol and the word "BIOHAZARD."

(c) Sharps waste shall be contained in a sharps container pursuant to Section 118285.

118285. To containerize sharps waste, a person shall do all of the following:

(a) Place all sharps waste into a sharps container.

(b) Tape closed or tightly lid full sharps containers ready for disposal to preclude loss of contents.

(c) Store sharps containers ready for disposal for not more than thirty days without the written approval of the enforcement agency.

(d) Label sharps containers with the words "sharps waste" or with the international biohazard symbol and the word "BIOHAZARD."

118286. (a) On or after September 1, 2008, no person shall knowingly place home-generated sharps waste in any of the following containers:

(1) Any container used for the collection of solid waste, recyclable materials, or greenwaste.

(2) Any container used for the commercial collection of solid waste or recyclable materials from business establishments.

(3) Any roll-off container used for the collection of solid waste, construction, and demolition debris, greenwaste, or other recyclable materials.

(b) On or after September 1, 2008, home-generated sharps waste shall be transported only in a sharps container, or other containers approved by the enforcement agency, and shall only be managed at any of the following:

(1) A household hazardous waste facility pursuant to Section 25218.13.

(2) A "home-generated sharps consolidation point" as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 117904.

(3) A medical waste generator's facility pursuant to Section 118147.

(4) A facility through the use of a medical waste mail-back container approved by the department pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 118245.

117750. "Sharps container" means a rigid puncture-resistant container that, when sealed, is leak resistant and cannot be reopened without great difficulty.

117755. "Sharps waste" means any device having acute rigid corners, edges, or protuberances capable of cutting or piercing, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(a) Hypodermic needles, hypodermic needles with syringes, blades, needles with attached tubing, syringes contaminated with biohazardous waste, acupuncture needles, and root canal files.

(b) Broken glass items, such as Pasteur pipettes and blood vials contaminated with biohazardous waste.

(c) Any item capable of cutting or piercing that is contaminated with trauma scene waste.

