



Presented by  
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# Countywide Sharps Waste Management Program





# Senate Bill 1305



- State law prohibits the disposal of home-generated sharps waste in trash, recycling, and green waste containers.
- The law also requires that sharps waste be transported or mailed to an authorized facility using an approved sharps container.
- Cities, Counties and manufacturers are encouraged to develop programs and services to assist with proper management.





# County of Los Angeles Efforts



- Safety
- No Alternatives





# Program Specifics

## Implemented - July 1, 2008



- **Program Goal**: Provide convenient and accessible means for residents to properly dispose of home-generated sharps waste
- Convenience is key to the success of the program
- Partnerships- leverage limited resources
- Protect the environment and public health and safety



# Available Sharps Containers



## Regular Container

- 1-gallon (BD Container)
- State approved
- Holds approx. 120 1cc syringes
- Available at all distribution and some collection sites



## Mail-Back Container

- 1.0 Quart (Sharps Compliance Inc.)
- Barcode tracking system
- USPS pre-paid postage box
- Available to disabled, elderly, or home-bound residents





# Main Distribution and Collection Sites



Site	Distribution	Collection
HHW mobile collection events	☑	☑
City of LA S.A.F.E. Centers (6 locations)	☑	☑
AVECC (Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center)	☑	☑
LACo Dept. Public Health (14 public clinics)	☑	☑
LACo Dept. Health Services (1 public clinic)	☑	☑
LACo Sheriff's Dept. (21 sheriff stations)		☑
Goodwill Stores (16+ locations)	☑	
LA County Public Works Headquarters	☑	
Other Designated City Locations	☑	



# Los Angeles County Public Health Department **Successful Partnership**



- Designated 14 clinics -distribution & collection of sharps waste
- No safety issues reported
- Home-generated sharps waste is added to the clinics existing medical waste stream disposal



## **Award and Recognition**

- The Program received a Special Merit Plaque from the County Productivity and Quality Awards for the collaborative partnership to protect the public and the environment.





# Successful Partnership

## Los Angeles County Public Health Clinics





# Successful and Innovative Partnership

## Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department



- Designated 21 Sheriff's stations for collection of sharps waste
- Anonymous drop-off of home-generated sharps waste
- Drop-off containers available 24/7
- Waste handled through certified contractor
- FY 10/11 collected approximately 9,000 pounds of sharps waste



*Los Angeles County*  
**Sheriff's Department**



# Los Angeles County Sheriff's Stations Successful and Innovative Partnership





# Public Outreach Efforts



- Media Releases
- Newspaper Advertisements
- Newspaper Articles
- Brochures
- Posters
- Dedicated Website: [ladpw.org/epd/HHW/sharps/sites](http://ladpw.org/epd/HHW/sharps/sites)



Pick up your free sharps container at any of the following distribution sites. When your container is 3/4 full, return it to any of the collection sites listed below for proper disposal.

**DISTRIBUTION SITES:**  
 Visit [www.BBECleanLA.com](http://www.BBECleanLA.com) for operating hours and information on upcoming collection events.

- Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Works  
900 S. Foothill Avenue, Altadena, 91003
- AVECC (Antelope Valley)  
12570C City Blvd. #100, Valencia, 91355
- City of West Covina  
14476 Garvey Avenue South, West Covina, 91792
- Goodwill stores  
Visit [www.BBECleanLA.com](http://www.BBECleanLA.com) for location details.
- Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health  
Visit [www.BBECleanLA.com](http://www.BBECleanLA.com) for location details.
- HHW mobile collection events  
Visit [www.BBECleanLA.com](http://www.BBECleanLA.com) for location details.
- City of Los Angeles S.A.F.E. centers:
  - San Pedro: Gaffey Street  
1700 N. Gaffey Street, San Pedro, 90721
  - Los Angeles: Glendale  
800 Colorado Boulevard, Los Angeles, 90027
  - Playo del Rey: Hyperion Treatment Plant  
7950B Imperial Hwy, San & Playo del Rey, 90271
  - San Valley: Randall Street  
11023 Randall Street, San Valley, 91352
  - West Los Angeles: UCLA  
555 Charles E. Young Drive South, Los Angeles, 90095
  - Los Angeles: Washington Blvd.  
2188 E. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90022

**COLLECTION SITES:**  
 Visit [www.BBECleanLA.com](http://www.BBECleanLA.com) for operating hours and information on upcoming collection events.

- HHW mobile collection events  
Visit [www.BBECleanLA.com](http://www.BBECleanLA.com) for location details.
- AVECC (Antelope Valley)  
12570C City Blvd. #100, Valencia, 91355
- City of Los Angeles S.A.F.E. centers (listed above)
- Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health  
Visit [www.BBECleanLA.com](http://www.BBECleanLA.com) for location details.

Upon 72-hour notice, Public Works can provide program information and publications in alternate formats or make other accommodations for people with disabilities. In addition, program documents are available at our main office in Altadena (900 S. Foothill Ave.), which is accessible to individuals with disabilities. To request accommodations ONLY for non-emergency use, please contact our Department of Public Works at (800) 982-TOXIC or TDD (824) 383-7923. Monday through Thursday, from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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**Home-Generated Sharps Waste Management Program**  
 County of Los Angeles  
 Department of Public Works

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program  
 Visit our website: [www.BBECleanLA.com](http://www.BBECleanLA.com)  
 or call our Hotline: (888) CLEAN LA (888) 233-2452

City of Los Angeles Program  
 Call the Bureau of Sanitation Hotline: (800) 982-TOXIC (800) 982-4942

Do the right thing and save your environment. Learn how to dispose of your sharps properly.

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
 Environmental Programs Division  
 Household Hazardous Waste Management Program  
[www.BBECleanLA.com](http://www.BBECleanLA.com)  
 (888) CLEAN LA

**Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**

**What is home-generated sharps waste?**  
 Home-generated sharps waste means hypodermic needles, pen needles, intravenous needles, lancets, and other devices that are used to generate the sharps for the delivery of medications derived from a household, including a multifamily residence or household.

**Can I throw my sharps in the trash?**  
 No, it's illegal. If you self-report to a law enforcement officer, disposal of your sharps in the trash.

**Where do I place my sharps once they have been used?**  
 You must place your sharps in a proper container. You can pick one up for free at the County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection events or at the City of Los Angeles S.A.F.E. centers. More distribution centers are listed on the back. Another alternative is to place them in a container that does not leak, break, or puncture. It must be taped sealed and labeled "SHARPS".

**Once filled, how can I dispose of my sharps container?**  
 When your sharps container is about 3/4 full, seal it tightly (per the instructions on the container) and take it to any of the County Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection events, the Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center (AVECC), the City of Los Angeles S.A.F.E. Centers, or a Department of Public Health clinic.

**What happens when sharps are not properly disposed?**  
 Sanitation and health workers or anyone that handles your trash can be injured. Also, leakage may occur from sharps found in streets and contaminate groundwater, rivers, and the ocean.

**Safely manage your SHARPS WASTE**

- The safest way to dispose of sharps waste is to use only State-approved sharps containers. Check availability at the distribution sites or ask your pharmacist or doctor about them.
- If you use a plastic bottle, do not use water bottles. They are made of plastic that will puncture. Use a clean bleach or detergent bottle. Seal the top with tape and label the container "SHARPS".
- Do not fill your container to the top, only until it is about 3/4 full. Seal it carefully.
- Do NOT flush your sharps waste or medications down the toilet or drain.
- Do NOT place your sharps waste or medications in the trash, green waste, or recycling bin.
- Keep your sharps containers out of reach of children and pets.

**Safely dispose of your sharps container by bringing it to any of the following collection sites:**

- Los Angeles County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events - For locations near you, visit [www.BBECleanLA.com](http://www.BBECleanLA.com) or call (888) CLEAN LA
- AVECC in Antelope Valley - For information, visit [www.BBECleanLA.com](http://www.BBECleanLA.com) or call (888) CLEAN LA
- City of Los Angeles S.A.F.E. Centers - For information, call (866) 98-TOXIC
- Department of Public Health - For clinic locations, visit [www.BBECleanLA.com](http://www.BBECleanLA.com)

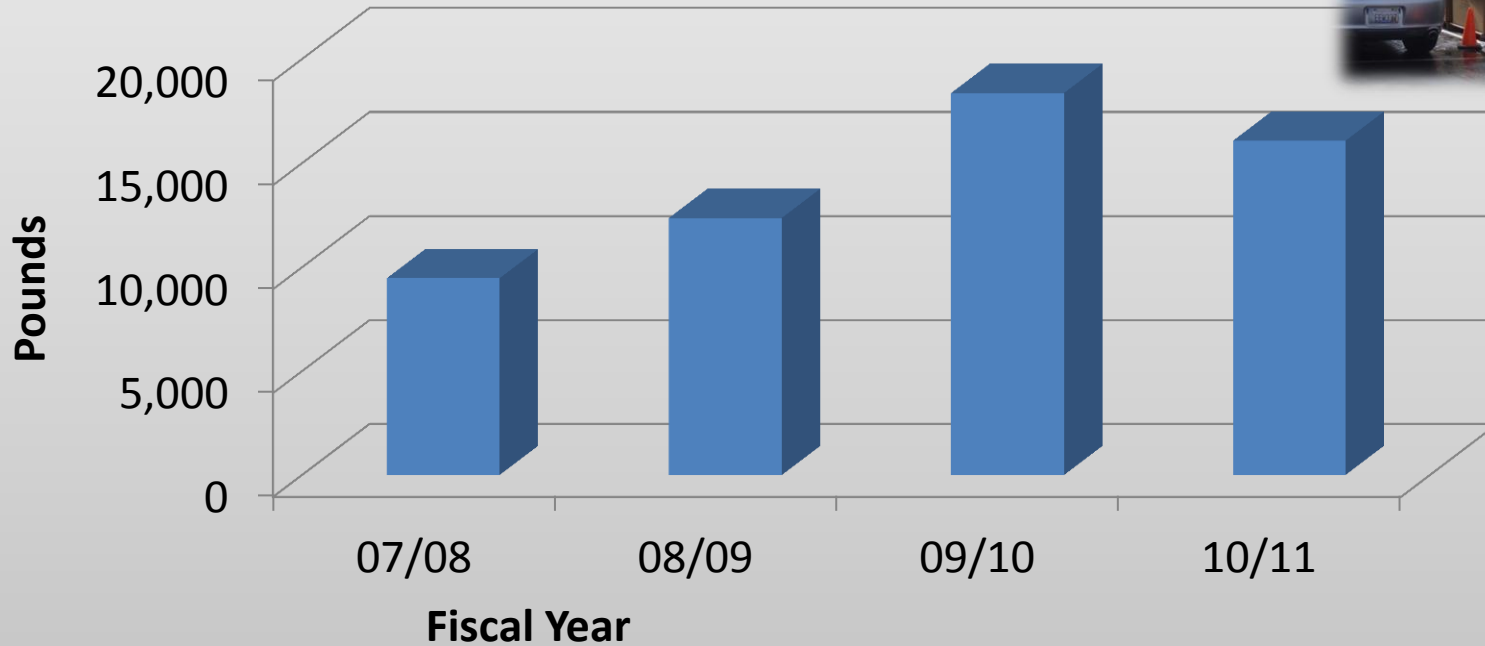
Do the right thing and save your environment -- dispose of your sharps waste properly!





# Collection Stats

## Pounds of home-generated sharps waste collected at the County Mobile Collection Events

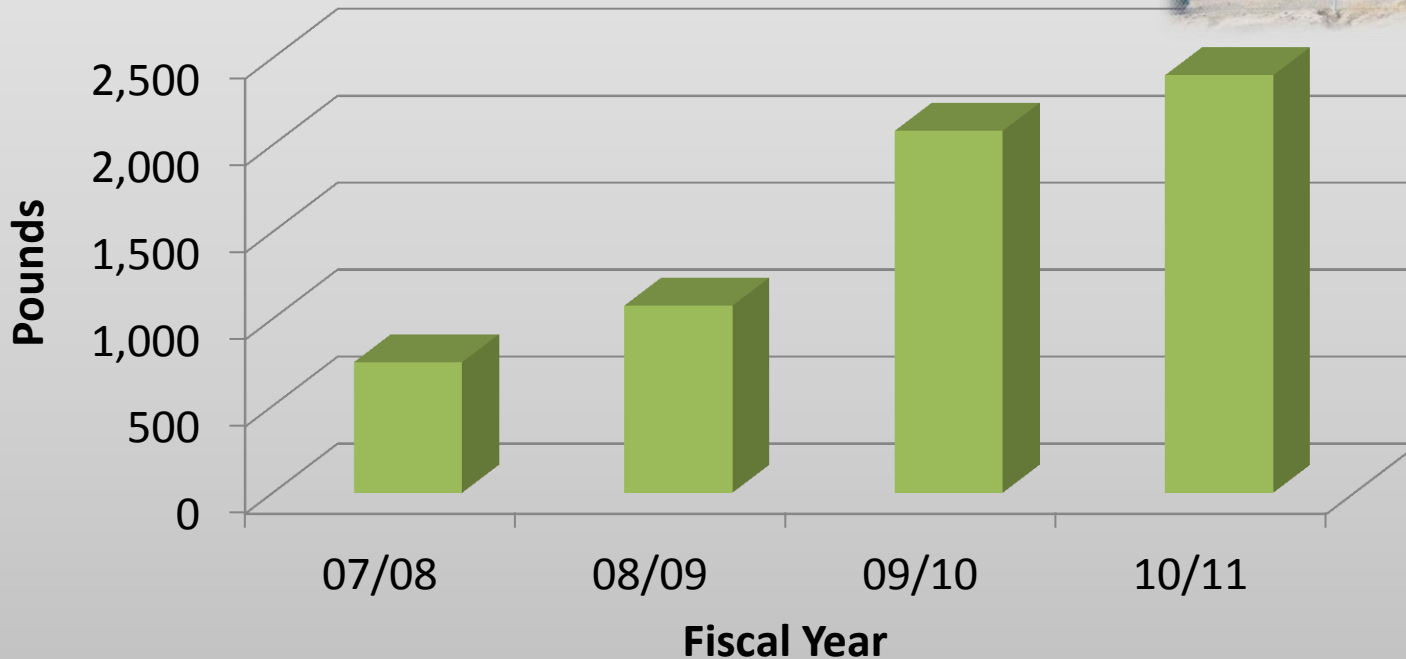
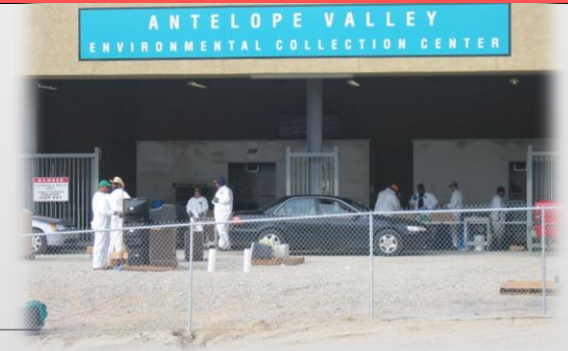




# Collection Stats



**Pounds of home-generated sharps waste collected at the AVECC**





# Future Goals For the Program



- **Partnerships with pharmacies, medical facilities, and retail stores**
- **Public Education**
- **Increase Collection**