

# Safe Disposal Information for Sharps and Medications

## Why is proper sharps disposal important?

“Sharps” refers to hypodermic needles, pen needles, intravenous needles, lancets and other similar devices. When used sharps are not disposed of safely, they may cause injury.

**Never place sharps in a trash or recycling container and never flush sharps down the toilet.** Not only is it illegal to dispose of used sharps in this way, it also puts trash and sewage workers, custodial or janitorial staff and household members at risk of being harmed.

## Why is proper medication disposal important?

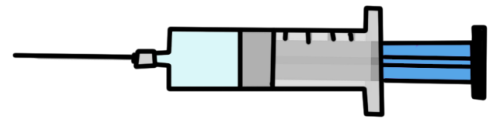
Proper disposal of medications at pharmaceutical drop-off locations is important for public health and safety and for environmental protection.

- **Placing medication in the trash is not safe and contaminates water.** Medications disposed of in the trash are not secure and can be accessed by almost anyone, especially when placed at the curb. Once at the landfill, the medications can end up in the landfill leachate—the water that infiltrates and percolates through the garbage placed in landfills. Once it enters this water, it cannot be removed.
- **Flushing medications contaminates water.** Flushing medications down the toilet or pouring medications down a drain can directly pollute local water sources, since wastewater treatment plants cannot remove medications from the water.
- **Storing medications can be unsafe.** Leftover medications stored in unlocked cabinets are accessible by children or others in the household, increasing the risk of preventable poisonings, drug abuse and overdoses.

## Safe Sharps Disposal

Place used sharps in a red sharps container or a puncture-proof container (example: a detergent bottle or coffee can), tightly close and tape the lid shut, then write “Sharps Waste” on the outside of the container. You can take the filled container to these locations for safe disposal during the hours listed below:

- **Recology Davis**, 2727 2nd St., Mon. – Fri. from 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. & Sat. from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- **Yolo County Landfill**, 44090 County Road 28H Thurs., Fri. & Sat from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



## Safe Medication Disposal

If you have unwanted, unused and/or expired over-the-counter or prescription medicines, you can bring them to the locations listed below. Contact each location for hours.

- **CVS Pharmacy**  
1550 E Covell Blvd.  
530-753-4004
- **Rite Aid**  
2135 Cowell Blvd.  
530-753-9810
- **Kaiser Permanente Davis MOB Pharmacy**  
1955 Cowell Blvd.  
530-757-4024

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