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HYPODERMIC NEEDLES ILLEGAL IN TRASH SEPT. 1

New Law Takes Effect Requiring Home Injectors Find New Options

Oceanside, Sept. 10, 2008 – Home generated hypodermic needles, or sharps, are forbidden in waste containers beginning in September when California Senate Bill 1305 takes effect. As of Sept. 1, all home-generated sharps waste must be transported in an approved sharps container and managed by a hazardous waste facility, medical waste generator facility, or a facility managed as part of a mail back program.

Waste Management in North San Diego County provides solid waste and recycling services to the cities of Carlsbad, Del Mar, Oceanside, Solana Beach, and parts of unincorporated San Diego County.

Waste Management in North San Diego County has authorized containers at each of our Buyback locations for residents to drop off their sharps/needles. Residents can transport these needles in their own containers to these locations and then place the sharps into the authorized containers at the Buyback location. WM employees are not authorized or allowed to handle sharps.

Locations are:

- Del Mar – 2265 Jimmy Durante Blvd.
- Carlsbad – 5960 El Camino Real
- Oceanside – 2880 Industry St.

Residents can dispose of these items during normal business hours. The hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 8:00 – 4:00, closed for lunch in Del Mar and Carlsbad.

Waste Management also has a Sharps Disposal by Mail System. Residents can find out more information at www.wastemd.com. Sharps mail-back programs provide individuals with a safe and convenient way of disposing of used hypodermic needles via a postage-prepaid shipping container delivered safely by the United States Postal Service to a certified medical waste facility, where it is destroyed.

With the April 2006 passing of SB 1305, California became one of the first states in the nation to ban sharps waste from the residential waste stream.

Surveys show that more than 3 billion needles and syringes used by self-injectors end up in trash or recycling containers, or are flushed down toilets. This improper disposal puts sanitation workers and the public at risk of needle sticks and serious infections. The new law will prohibit needles in any household waste, including recycling or green waste bins.

Today, more than 9 million Americans legally self inject each year to treat numerous conditions, including diabetes, hepatitis, multiple sclerosis, infertility, and allergies. With advances in healthcare and the desire of patients to receive medical care in their homes, there is a rise in the legal use of self-injected drugs. What's more, the increase is expected to multiply dramatically over the next decade, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention projecting that more than 7 percent of the U.S. population will have diabetes by 2050.

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Waste Management, Inc., based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. The company is a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. For more information see www.thinkgreen.com