



ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS SOLID WASTE DIVISION

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SHARPS DISPOSAL GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH and VETERINARY FACILITIES, 2012

This guideline provides quick reference for the handling of Contaminated Sharps, defined as medical and Laboratory equipment generated by an Infectious Waste Generator that may cause punctures or cuts. Such waste includes, but is not limited to, needles, syringes, lancets, scalpel blades, broken or sharp laboratory glassware such as slides plates, cover slips, and pipettes.

Island County Code 8.08B.340 prescribes handling, treatment and disposal standards for Contaminated Sharps and other Infectious Wastes. A copy is attached, and can be viewed at www.islandcounty.net/code/documents/ICC08.pdf.

Two options for sharps disposal include either use of a licensed route collection service or treatment and disposal in the local solid waste stream. This guideline addresses the latter.

Instructions for Sharps Treatment & Disposal in the Solid Waste Stream

- Place Sharps in leak-proof, rigid, puncture resistant, break resistant, labeled containers with lids secured to prevent spills during storage, handling and transport. Sharps contained in this way are considered “Treated.”
- Make an appointment with the Island County Public Works/Solid Waste at the telephone numbers below for disposal of Sharps at either the Solid Waste Complex (Coupeville) or the Camano Island Transfer Station.
- The County employee who receives the waste will:
 - Direct the generator dispose of the sharps containers in an open-top trailer that is no more than half full; and
 - Notify station operators of the presence of Sharps in the trailer.

- Containers with Sharps must be transported separately from general solid waste to either of the two solid waste facilities listed above by appointment, and cannot be placed with regular trash in clinic or health facility dumpsters or trash cans.
- Disposal is required within 90 days of generation.

Disposal Fees. A minimum charge is \$11 includes the first 50 pounds. Additional quantities are prorated in 20 pound increments based on the \$115 per ton tipping fee.

Contacts

Call for an appointment:

Solid Waste Complex (Coupeville)

Jerry Mingo 679-7386, or 321-5111 x7386

Brian Weaver 679-7387, or 321-5111 x7387

Camano Island Transfer Station

Roger Kenney 387-9696

Jerry Mingo 679-7386, or 629-4505 x7386

Questions regarding the Infectious Waste section of the Island County Code:

Island County Public Health 679-7350, 321-5111 x7350,
629-4505 x7350

Pharmaceutical Waste Disposal

Please visit www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/pharmaceuticals/index/html or call 425-649-7000 for assistance. Please remember that it is not appropriate for health care professionals to dispose of unwanted medications down any drain.