



Customer Pipeline

Emerald Coast Utilities Authority

Are You Disposing of Sharps Safely?

Annually, thousands of people are injured across the country from improperly discarded hypodermic needles, syringes and lancets, often referred to as “sharps.” Medical caregivers, solid waste handlers and wastewater operators are at the highest risk of injury, but small children, pets, and other household members can also be injured. The proper storage and disposal of sharps and lancets are crucial to help protect your family members and our employees from accidental injury.

Why is the proper disposal of used sharps so important?



Sharps can transmit bloodborne pathogens such as HIV and hepatitis B and C, and should be considered an important public health hazard. Proper disposal helps to guard against the inadvertent sticking of family members, sanitation workers, or the dangerous re-use of the sharps for unintended purposes. Further, what may seem to be a small needle stick will result in costly testing and preventive treatment for the injured person.

We recommend the following steps to safely dispose of your sharps:

- Keep an empty sturdy plastic laundry or fabric softener jug handy in which to collect your sharps. Select jugs that have small-mouth openings and heavy-duty plastic caps that screw on tightly.
- Keep this container in a safe place, out of reach of children and pets.
- **Once the container is full, please dispose of it in your household garbage can, NOT in the recycling can. These sharps are NOT recyclable.**
- Never flush sharps down the toilet.
- Never put a used sharp in a container that isn't sturdy enough for sharps such as plastic coffee cans (they have a wide opening and a flimsy plastic lid), drink cans, bottles or plastic food boxes. All these containers will likely break open during the compaction process on the sanitation truck, spilling the sharps throughout the truck's contents.
- Once you've put a used needle into your sharps' container, don't try to remove it.

Together, we can help protect your family and our employees from preventable injuries from hypodermic needles, syringes and lancets. For more information on the safe disposal of sharps, visit the US Food & Drug Administration website at www.fda.gov, and look under the Medical Devices tab.



Mark Your Calendars!

ECUA offices will be closed **Friday, December 23** and **Monday, December 26**, in observance of the Christmas holiday, and on **Monday, January 2, 2017**, in observance of the New Year's holiday.

There are NO CHANGES to the Sanitation Collection Schedules this holiday season.

Have Safe and Happy Holidays!



Let's Keep it Clean!

Please help us keep our recyclables clean by placing only accepted recyclables in your recycling cart, and remember, liquids and garbage can contaminate recyclables, reducing their value and potential for reuse.

What is NOT Recyclable?

- Plastic Shopping Bags
- Plastic & Metal Hangers
- Bedding or Linens
- Aerosol Cans
- Juice Boxes / Bags
- Polystyrene (StyroFoam®) Products
- Household Garbage
- Yard Waste
- Garden Hoses
- Clothing
- Diapers
- Window Blinds
- Carpeting or Rugs
- Tarps
- Construction Materials
- Bubble Wrap
- Medical Waste and Sharps
- Food Waste
- Waxy/Paper Food Containers

(Milk & Ice Cream Cartons, etc.)

• Plastics that have non-recyclable icons like these --
Note that the text area may be blank or it may specify a type of plastic such as Multi-Layer or Plastic Cover.



Dreaming of a Green Christmas



The days are getting (somewhat) cooler and shorter with a chill in the air. Yes, it's that time of the year again as we approach the holiday season. By popular demand, we're reviewing some of our most favorite and fun ways to incorporate some green activities in our holiday planning and activities, no matter which holiday you may celebrate. Visit us at www.livegreenecua.com for details on all our eco-friendly programs.

Conserve Water: As we begin the Sewer Averaging Period, now is a great time to be mindful of water consumption and do our best to conserve.

Protect Our Groundwater: Remember that our drinking water comes from the Sand-and-Gravel Aquifer, and anything that is poured on the ground has the potential to contaminate our drinking water supply. Dispose of chemicals and household contaminants safely.

Put Your Home's Plumbing on a Fat-Free Diet: Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) can clog up household plumbing and the sanitary sewer collection system. Dispose of FOG in an eco-friendly way and help prevent sanitary sewer overflows.

Recycle Your Christmas Tree and Feed the Compost Pile: When it's time to take down the decorations, place your real tree (free of decorations and tree stand, please!) or wreaths out by the curb on your usual collection day for pick-up as part of your regular yard waste collection. ECUA will compost the trees with the other usual yard waste at our new Biosolids Composting Facility located on-site at the Central Water Reclamation Facility in Cantonment. It's a Win-Win!

Reuse Plastic Bags: Reuse plastic bags as trash can liners or use them when you're mailing packages as a lightweight packing buffer. Also, many large retailers have recycling stations for plastic bags so keep an eye out for those locations.