



North End Santa Rosa Co. Sanitation Services

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 collectively 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 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.

Continued on page 2



What Can I Recycle?

- Pizza Boxes
- Tin/Steel Cans & Lids
- Foil Baking Pans
- Tin Foil
- Metal Pots, Pans
- Plastic bottles
- Pet Food Cans
- Cardboard
- Glass, any color
- Newspaper & Inserts
- Cardboard Egg Cartons
- Magazines & Catalogs
- Junk Mail & Envelopes
- Paper Bags & Phone Books
- Aluminum Cans & Lids
- Plastic Milk Jugs
- Colored Papers
- Cereal Boxes
- Dry Pet Food Bags
- Plastics No. 1-7
- Plastic Produce Clamshells

See What is NOT Recyclable on the Reverse Side



Did You Know?

In November 2016, the Santa Rosa Board of County Commissioners voted to raise the tipping fee rate at its Santa Rosa Central Landfill and to add a new recycling tipping fee, to take effect on January 1, 2017. A small increase to accommodate the rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that is provided for in the ECUA's contract with the Santa Rosa Board of County Commissioners will also be included in the new rate.

As such, an increase of \$2.70 per quarter (for 95-gallon can service) is accordingly reflected on the ECUA rate for your sanitation service, effective January 1, 2017.



**Customer Service: 476-0480 • www.ecua.fl.gov • customer.service@ecua.fl.gov
• After-hours Emergency Calls: 476-5110 • livegreenecua.com**



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.

We Wish You Safe and Happy Holidays!

Disposal of Sharps, *Continued from page 1*

- 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.

What is NOT Recyclable?

Please help us keep our recyclables clean by keeping the following items out of your recycling container. Remember, liquids and garbage can contaminate recyclables, reducing their value and potential for reuse.

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

