



## ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS SOLID WASTE DIVISION

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### SHARPS DISPOSAL GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH and VETERINARY FACILITIES, 2019

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.330 prescribes handling, treatment and disposal standards for Contaminated Sharps and other Infectious Wastes, and can be viewed at [www.islandcounty.net/code/documents/ICC08.pdf](http://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 Treatment of Sharps

- Place Sharps in leak-proof, rigid, puncture resistant, break resistant, labeled container with lid secured to prevent spills during storage, handling and transport. Sharps contained in this way are considered “Treated.”

#### Instructions for Disposal of Sharps in the Solid Waste Stream

- Notify Island County Public Works/Solid Waste at the telephone numbers provided below prior to transporting sharps for disposal at either the Solid Waste Complex (Coupeville) or the Camano Island Transfer Station.
- Upon arriving at the inbound scale, notify the scale house attendant that you have “Clinical Sharps for disposal”. The scale house attendant will:
  - Direct the generator dispose of the sharps containers in an open-top trailer that is no more than half full; and
  - Notify solid waste staff 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 below 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 of \$11.00 for the first 40 pounds of solid waste applies. Disposal fees are prorated in 20 pound increments based on the \$115 per ton tipping fee.

### Contacts

#### Solid Waste Complex (Coupeville)

Gene Clark (360) 679-7386, or 321-5111 x7386  
Todd Davis (360) 679-7387, or 321-5111 x7387

#### Camano Island Transfer Station

Roger Kenney (360) 387-9696  
Gene Clark (360) 679-7386, or 629-4505 x7386

Questions regarding the Infectious Waste section of the Island County Code:  
Island County Public Health (360) 679-7350, 321-5111 x7350,  
(360) 629-4505 x7350

### Pharmaceutical Waste Disposal

Refer to Department of Ecology's website for managing pharmaceutical waste at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Dangerous-waste-guidance/Common-dangerous-waste/Pharmaceutical-waste/Rules-policy-guides>.

For local assistance, please phone Gene Clark or Island County Public Health at the numbers listed above. *Please remember that it is not appropriate for health care professionals to dispose of unwanted medications down any drain.*