

## HERNANDO COUNTY SHARPS DROP-OFF SITES

Call the site closest to you for more information

### Northwest West Management Facility

14450 Landfill Road  
(Off US 98 North)  
Brooksville, Florida  
**(352) 754-4112**  
Closed: Sundays  
Open: Monday through Saturday,  
8:00 am—4:30 pm

### West Hernando Transfer Station

2525 Osowaw Boulevard  
(County Road 595)  
Spring Hill, Florida  
**(352) 754-4770**  
Closed: Sundays and Monday  
Open: Tuesday through Saturday,  
9:00 am—5:00 pm

### East Hernando Transfer Station

33070 Cortez Boulevard  
(State Road 50 East)  
Ridge Manor, Florida  
**(352) 540-6205**  
Closed: Sundays and Monday  
Open: Tuesday through Saturday,  
9:00 am—5:00 pm

## Why is proper disposal of “unwanted medications important?”

Recent studies have shown that improperly discarded medications, have been upsetting the eco-system. Many streams, rivers and lakes across the USA, have shown elevated levels of commonly used medications. These medications such as antidepressants and human hormone, have caused some creatures not to mature at the correct rate or even caused some to produce both sex glands.

Residents with “unwanted medications” have been flushing them down the toilet. For residents with sewer hook up, the medications enter the waste treatment plant. Most treatment plants are not set up to recognize the medications, so the medications are passed thru the plant and back out into the eco-system. The process is shorter for residents with septic tanks. Once flushed the medications enter the septic tank then the leach field, where they will be absorbed by the ground and eventually find your drinking supply.

DEP recommends throwing the medications in the trash, however over time the medications will breakdown, and enter the leachate collection system. Once in the leachate collection system, the medications will still end up at the water treatment plant.

Hernando County has started an “Unwanted Medication Disposal Program”. Residents may bring their medications to any of the Hernando County Solid Waste & Recycling locations for disposal. We have a secured bin, containing a mild acid solution, that dissolves the medication and renders it useless. The waste is then shipped off as an acid and disposed of properly, without ever entering the water supplies.

HERNANDO COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING DIVISION

For more information contact::

Jeff Howley, Environmental Specialist (352) 754-4906

Jon Ewing, Project Specialist (352) 754-4908

HERNANDO COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING  
DIVISION



## USED SHARPS & UNWANTED MEDICATION DISPOSAL PROGRAM



## Why is proper disposal of sharps important?

Hernando County residents with medical conditions that require the use of syringes for injected medication, or lancets to test blood sugar level, need to be disposed of properly. Both are commonly known as sharps.

If not disposed of properly, sharps can:

- Clog sewers and lift stations
- Place recycling center workers at risk of injury and/or disease
- Place sanitation workers on collection routes and landfill employees at risk of injury and/or disease
- Be life threatening if contaminated with hepatitis, HIV (the virus that causes AIDS), and other serious diseases



## DISPOSAL

- Use a clean container such as a well washed milk jug to put your sharps in
- Keep containers out of reach of children
- Keep your sharps completely intact while placing into the container
- When full, take the sharps to a designated transfer station (listed on brochure)
- At the transfer station, the resident will be required to transfer the sharps from their container to the designated bio-hazardous container

## WHEN DISPOSING OF SHARPS DO NOT!!!

- SNAP OFF THE NEEDLES
- DO NOT TRY TO RECAP THE NEEDLES



- NEVER LEAVE SHARPS OR SHARP CONTAINERS UNATTENDED