

Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County News

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SWA's September Household Hazardous Waste Tip ~ Keep Medications and Needles Out of Recycling Bins ~

If medicines help you, make sure they don't hurt solid waste workers or our environment. Prescriptions medications and needles should not be thrown into the garbage or recycling bin. They require proper disposal.

Palm Beach County residents can dispose of prescription medications and needles at many locations countywide*.

Prescription Medications

Keep prescription medicines out of the hands of strangers, away from children, and out of the water supply by taking advantage of [Operation Pill Drop](#), a partnership between the SWA, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, and many local police departments.

[Operation Pill Drop boxes](#) are located throughout Palm Beach County to provide residents easy drop-off of unwanted or expired medications. Residents may also call the [Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office](#) at 561-688-3800 for specific instructions. Until you are ready to dispose of unwanted or expired prescription medications, do your part by making sure they are secure.

Learn more about the Palm Beach County Substance Awareness Coalition's work to keep our communities healthy, safe and drug-free on their [website](#).

Needles

Used sharps, including syringes with needles, detached needles and disposable lancets, may carry infectious diseases and can pose a danger to solid waste workers or anyone who accidentally comes in contact with them. **The SWA does NOT accept sharps or biomedical waste through the trash, in recycle bins, or at any Home Chemical and Recycling Center.**

To find an appropriate needles drop-off location in Palm Beach County, call the [Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County](#) at 561-837-5900.

Remember, pollution prevention starts at home. Visit [SWA.org/HCRC](#) or call 561-697-2700 or 866-SWA-INFO (toll-free) to learn more about the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County's Home Chemical and Recycling Centers.

**Businesses that generate [biomedical waste](#) are regulated by both the Florida Department of Health (DOH) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The DOH has primary authority and responsibility for facilities that generate, transport, store or treat biomedical waste through processes other than incineration. The DEP has primary responsibility for biomedical waste incineration and final disposal.*

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The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County is a Dependent Special District that was created by the Florida Legislature in 1975. Since then, the SWA has developed an award-winning integrated solid waste management system to handle the county's waste and recyclables. We call ourselves AWAY: whether you throw it, recycle it or flush it AWAY, we put your waste to work. Each year, we:

- Process more than 100,000 tons of [recyclables](#) each year
- Combust approximately 1.8 million tons of trash each year to generate electricity at [renewable energy facilities](#)
- Produce enough electricity to power approximately 74,000 homes, about the number of homes in Boca Raton and Palm Beach Gardens
- Recycle more than 150,000 tons of [wastewater treatment residuals](#) (sludge from flushes) into environmentally-friendly fertilizer
- Safely dispose of more than 4 million pounds of [home hazards](#) a year

- Collect water off of the roofs of [Renewable Energy Facility 2](#) and store it in a 2 million gallon cistern, which is used as part of the energy making process

With the recent changes to the SWA's website, anyone can now sign up to receive SWA news, calendar updates, jobs, or other Web postings of interest by [signing up online](#). Should you sign up online to receive SWA's news releases.

Connect with the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County - [SWA.org](#)

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most communications to or from the Solid Waste Authority are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.