



### **Program Overview:**

During any one year in the United States, an estimated nine million sharps users administer over three billion injections outside of healthcare facilities. “Sharps” include items such as needles, syringes, lancets, auto-injectors, and infusion sets. Sharps are used by individuals at home to manage a variety of medical conditions, including allergies, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, infertility, migraines, multiple sclerosis, osteoporosis, blood clotting disorders, and psoriasis. The improper disposal of sharps, such as discarding them uncovered in trash/recycling or flushing down the toilet, can lead to significant injuries to family members and solid waste workers, both in terms of needle sticks and exposure to disease.

Responding to this growing concern, EcoSteris has developed the "Because We Care" program, a safe and simple way to dispose of home-generated sharps.

### **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for EcoSteris’ Home-Generated Sharps Disposal Program**

#### **Objective:**

To establish a streamlined and secure process for individuals to drop off personal used sharps containers at the EcoSteris facility, free of cost, for safe treatment and disposal, supporting our state and community.

#### **Scope:**

This SOP applies to all individuals residing in the South Carolina Lowcountry area who wish to utilize the “Because We Care” program by EcoSteris for the disposal and treatment of personal used sharps. Registered and approved individuals can drop off their home-generated sharps at EcoSteris facility in Summerville, SC on the first Friday of every quarter free of charge.

## **1. Online Registration and Approval Process**

### **1.1. Accessing the Online Form**

1. Individuals must visit the EcoSteris website ([www.ecosteris.com](http://www.ecosteris.com)).
2. Navigate to the "Because We Care Program" section.
3. Click on the "Register for Drop-Off" link to access the online registration form.

## 1.2. Filling Out the Form

1. **Personal Information:**
  - Full Name
  - Residential Address (must be within the SC Lowcountry)
  - Contact Information (phone number and email address)
2. **Sharps Information:**
  - Type of sharps (e.g., needles, lancets, etc.)
  - Maximum Volume (3gl)
  - Container type (we only accept sharps that are stored in disposable sharps containers or an empty bleach or detergent bottle)
3. **Acknowledgment:**
  - Read and acknowledge the EcoSteris sharps disposal policy and guidelines.

## 1.3. Submission and Review

1. Submit the completed form online.
2. A confirmation email will be sent upon submission.
3. The EcoSteris team will review the submitted information within 2-3 business days.
4. Call 843-8183510 to schedule your drop-off date.

## 2. Drop-Off Procedure

### 2.1. Preparation for Drop-Off

1. Ensure all sharps are securely packed in an approved disposable sharps container or in an empty bleach or detergent bottle.
2. The sharps container or bottle should be no more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, overfilled containers will be rejected.
3. The disposable sharps box should be in its final closing position or the cap on the bottle should be tightly secured.

### 2.2. Arrival at EcoSteris Facility

1. **Date and Time:** Arrive at the EcoSteris facility (112 Fabricators Street, Summerville, SC) on the designated drop-off date during business hours 8:00am to 5:00pm.
2. **Identification Check:** Present a valid photo ID and the approval email or your ID number to the front desk.
3. **Verification:** The front desk personnel will verify the individual's registration ID and match it with the approved list.

### 2.3. Drop-Off Process

1. Follow the signs to the designated drop-off area.

2. EcoSteris staff will be present to assist with the drop-off process.
3. Hand over the sharp containers to the EcoSteris staff.

### 3. Handling of Sharps

1. All received sharps containers will be safely transported to the EcoSteris treatment area.
2. Containers will be logged and cross-checked with the registration database for accountability.

### 4. Compliance and Safety Guidelines

1. **Approved Containers:** Only sharps in approved containers will be accepted. The EcoSteris website provides guidelines for acceptable container types.
2. **No On-Site Openings:** For safety reasons, sharps containers must not be opened on site.
3. **Non-Compliance:** Failure to follow the outlined procedures may result in refusal of service.

### 5. Community Support and Feedback

1. **Support:** The program aims to support the safe disposal of sharps in the Lowcountry area, contributing to public health and safety.
2. **Feedback:** Participants are encouraged to provide feedback via the EcoSteris website to help improve the program.

### 6. Contact Information

For further assistance or inquiries, participants may contact the EcoSteris Customer Support Team at (843) 818 3510 or email [contact@ecosteris.com](mailto:contact@ecosteris.com).

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**EcoSteris, LLC**

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