

<b>CLEARANCES</b>	<b>Initial</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Date Received in Council Office</b>	<b>Agenda Date</b>	<b>Assigned to:</b>
Originator:		4/7/2009		4/14/2009	Introduction
Division Head:	<i>[Signature]</i>	4.7.2009		4/28/2009	Hearing
Dept. Head:					
Prosecutor:					
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:					

**TITLE OF DOCUMENT:**

Ordinance amending WCC24.06, Solid Waste Rules and Regulations, re: sharps

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Ordinance

SEPA review required?	( ) Yes	( ) NO	Should Clerk schedule a hearing?	( X ) Yes	( ) NO
SEPA review completed?	( ) Yes	( ) NO	Requested Date:	4/28/2009	

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)**

This ordinance will amend WCC 24.06, Solid Waste Rules and Regulations - Standards and Permits, to allow retractable sharps waste (defined as "all commercially generated syringes with needles that retract securely into the syringe after injection") to be disposed as solid waste in the municipal solid waste stream. Retractable sharps waste shall be contained in red colored, rigid, puncture-resistant, leak proof containers made of materials including, but not limited to, metal or plastic, designed to prevent the loss of the contents and clearly labeled with a visible biohazard symbol and the words "Biohazard" and Retractable Sharps.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

**COUNCIL ACTION:**

4/14/2009: Introduced  
 4/28/2009: Council Adopted 7-0  
 Ord. 2009-025

**Related County Contract #:**

**Related File Numbers:**

**Ordinance or Resolution Number:** Ord. 2009-025

**Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: [www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council).**

SPONSORED BY: Consent  
PROPOSED BY: Consent  
INTRODUCTION DATE: April 14, 2009

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-025

**AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 24.06, SOLID WASTE RULES AND REGULATIONS – STANDARDS AND PERMITS, TO ALLOW RETRACTABLE SHARPS WASTE TO BE DISPOSED AS SOLID WASTE IN THE MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM**

**WHEREAS**, WCC24.06.040, Biomedical Waste, currently requires that sharps waste, defined as used hypodermic needles, syringes with needles, intravenous tubing with needles attached, scalpel blades, and lancets, be treated prior to disposal as solid waste in order to prevent transmission of bloodborne pathogens from needlestick injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, one type of sharps waste, referred to as retractable sharps waste, is considered to significantly reduce the potential for needlestick injuries through retraction of the needle into the syringe after injection; and

**WHEREAS**, retractable sharps are primarily used for vaccination purposes, where costs due to unnecessary treatment may increase the costs of vaccination, and subsequently reduce vaccination rates; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council, acting as the Whatcom County Board of Health, that amendments to WCC 24.06, Solid Waste Rules and Regulations-Standards and Permits, as outlined in Exhibit A to this ordinance are hereby adopted.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to invalid or unconstitutional; such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

**BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED** that the Council hereby declares that it would have passed this code and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases has been declared invalid or unconstitutional, and the original ordinance or ordinances shall be in full force and affect.

ADOPTED this 18th day of April, 2009.

ATTEST:  
COUNTY OF WHATCOM  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council  
APPROVED AS TO FORM  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
Seth Fleetwood, Council Chair  
Pete Kremen, Executive

Approved       Denied

Date: 5-14-09

## EXHIBIT A

### WCC 24.06

## SOLID WASTE RULES AND REGULATIONS- STANDARDS AND PERMITS

### 24.06.030 Definitions.

6. “Retractable sharps waste” is all commercially generated syringes with needles that retract securely into the syringe after injection.

7. “Sharps waste” is all hypodermic needles, syringes with needles attached, intravenous tubing with needles attached, scalpel blades, and lancets that have been removed from the original sterile package

### 24.06.040 Biomedical waste.

#### A. Exemptions.

2. Retractable Sharps Waste Exemption. Retractable sharps waste disposed of in containers not exceeding 2 gallons are exempt from the requirements of this chapter, provided that:

a. Retractable sharps waste shall be contained in red colored rigid, puncture-resistant, leakproof containers made of materials including, but not limited to, metal or plastic, designed to prevent the loss of the contents and clearly labeled with a visible biohazard symbol and the words “Biohazard” and “Retractable Sharps.”