

Proper Medication Disposal

| Resource | What They Provide | Where You Can Find Them |
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| State and local governments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations for drug take-back programs • Locations of controlled substance take-back collection boxes (established by police departments or local drug enforcement agency field offices) • Waste management household hazardous waste programs • State boards of pharmacy may also have regulations dictating what a pharmacist may do with respect to medication take-back programs | http://www.justice.gov/dea/agency/domestic.htm (DEA field office locations) |
| SMARxT Disposal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness campaign that is a result of a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the American Pharmacists Association, and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. • Instructions for the proper disposal of medications • Links to safe disposal resources (including campaign materials) • News about pharmaceuticals in the environment • Answers to common questions about medication disposal | http://www.smarxtdisposal.net/index.html |
| Dispose My Meds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tool that will locate independent pharmacies with medication take-back programs within a certain zip code, city, or state. • Information about the safety and environmental risks associated with improper medication disposal • Media center with links to news articles, videos, and audio related to proper medication disposal | http://disposemymeds.org |
| The Drug Take-Back Network | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links to local resources and events, as well as suggestions and tips for planning a take-back event • Descriptions and advice from successful take-back programs • Resources for pharmacies and organizations to adapt for their own events, such as waste inventory spreadsheets | http://www.takebacknetwork.com/index.html |
| No Drugs Down the Drain | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to search waste collection agencies that will accept unwanted medications across the United States • Information about the importance of safe drug disposal • Links to several other helpful medication disposal sites | http://nodrugsdownthedrain.org/ |
| Private Companies (Ex. Waste Management and Sharps, Inc) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mail-back disposal for a fee (Patients must be advised to verify what types of medications and devices are accepted) • Sharps, Inc also provides a take-away service for pharmacies that are interested in collecting patients' unused medications on site | http://www.wm.com/products-and-services/residential-curb-side-pickup/household-hazardous-waste.jsp (Waste Management) http://www.sharpsinc.com/unused-medications.htm (Sharps, Inc) |

| Other Means of Medication Disposal <i>**If no medication take-back programs for disposal are available in your area</i> | Proper way to conduct this form of disposal |
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| Disposal in Household Trash | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • **If no medicine take-back programs for disposal are available in your area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remove medications from their original containers. ○ Remove personal information from the container label of the original prescription bottle. ○ Mix medicines (Do not crush tablets or capsules) with an undesirable substance such as kitty litter or used coffee grounds; ○ Place the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag; and ○ Throw the container in your household trash ○ Liquid medications should be mixed with salt, flour, charcoal, or a nontoxic powdered spice, such as turmeric or mustard to give the mixture an unappealing smell and texture. |
| Flushing of Certain Medicines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • **If no medicine take-back programs for disposal are available in your area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flush unused medications down the sink or toilet. |

Disposal of Medical Supplies

*****If no take-back programs are readily available in your area***

| Products | Best Way To Dispose |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Ampules, Vials, & IV Bags | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not empty or open the bags• Wrap the container with tape to minimize breakage, and place in an opaque plastic container (Ex. Empty yogurt or margarine tub).• Wrap the outside of the container with additional duct or shipping tape to prevent leakage.• Dispose of the container in the trash (NOT YOUR RECYCLING BIN!) |
| Chemotherapy Drugs | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chemotherapy drugs may have special disposal requirements.• Consult your health care provider about proper disposal. |
| Mercury Thermometers | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bring to a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection or contact your town's recycling or public works (DO NOT PUT IN THE TRASH!)• Learn how to safely clean up a broken mercury thermometer. |
| Sharps (needles and lancets) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place these items in a puncture-proof, hard plastic container with a screw-on cap (Ex. Detergent bottle or milk jug)• Seal the container with the original lid and wrap with duct tape.• Place the tightly sealed container in a bag and place in the trash (NOT YOUR RECYCLING BIN!). |