

Pharmaceutical Waste Management at Home: To protect the environment, please use these guidelines instead of flushing medications:

- Keep in the original container. This will help identify the contents if they are accidentally ingested.
- Mark out your name & prescription number for safety.
- For pills: add some water or soda to start dissolving them
- For liquids: add something inedible like cat litter or dirt
- Close the lid and secure it with duct or packing tape
- Place the bottle(s) inside an opaque (non-see-through) container like a detergent container.
- Tape that container closed.
- Hide the container in the trash. Do not put it in the recycle bin.

**DO NOT** give drugs to anyone else **DO NOT** flush drugs down the toilet. **DO NOT** put drugs in the trash without disguising them – humans may find them and misuse them.

FAQ:

Can I take my unwanted medicine to my pharmacy? New federal regulations allow pharmacies to have collection programs. You should check with your pharmacy to see if it is available.

Can I take my unwanted medicine to a hospital? New federal regulations allow hospitals to have collection programs. You should check with your hospital to see if it is available. If not, consider asking them to start a collection program.

Can I take my unwanted medicine to my doctor? In most cases, your doctor will not be able to take them back. If the doctor is located in a hospital with a collection program, he will be able to direct you to the collection container.

Can I donate my unwanted medicine? In most cases, no.

Can I put my unwanted medicine in my SHARPS container? No, medicine should not be disposed of in your sharps container. For information on sharps disposal: [Needle Collection Programs](#)

Can I put my medicine in the trash? There are also products available to mix with medications so they can be disposed of in the trash.