

FACT SHEET

What to do with Unwanted Medications



Unwanted medicine includes:

- Expired or unwanted prescriptions and medicine,
- Vitamins,
- Veterinary medications, and
- Over the counter medicines.

Flushing or tossing unwanted medications is dangerous!

If flushed down the toilet or drain, unwanted medications can contaminate water supplies and harm wildlife. Unwanted medicine disposed in the trash can be stolen and used, potentially resulting in death or illness. Having unwanted medications around the home presents a danger to children, guests and pets who could accidentally ingest the drugs.

Safely store all medicine!

Look for leftover medicines that you no longer need. Check expiration dates and look for medicine that is discolored, dried out, crumbling or show other signs of being degraded. After identifying the medicines you want to keep, store them in a convenient, but cool and dry location. Put unwanted medicines in a safe place where you won't confuse them with currently used medication and where others can't get to them. Always keep medicines in areas where children cannot reach; if possible, keep medicines in a locked cabinet. Always keep medicine in the bottle it came in. For more information about safe storage, contact the National Council on Patient Information at (301) 656-8565 or visit their website at www.talkaboutrx.org.



Proper disposal of outdated, unwanted medications is the right thing to do! Help protect your health, your family, your community and the environment by disposing of unwanted drugs safely.