

How to Dispose of Medicines Properly

DONT: Flush expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs down the toilet or drain unless the label or accompanying patient information specifically instructs you to do so.

DO: Return unwanted or expired prescription and over-the-counter drugs to a drug take-back program or follow the steps for household disposal below

DRUG TAKE-BACK EVENTS To dispose of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, call your city or county government's household trash and recycling service and ask if a drug take-back program is available in your community. Some counties hold household hazardous waste collection days, where prescription and over-the-counter drugs are accepted at a central location for proper disposal.

How Proper Disposal of Medicines Protects You and the Earth:

- *Prevents poisoning of children and pets
 - *Deters misuse by teenagers and adults
 - *Avoids health problems from accidentally taking the wrong medicine, too much of the same medicine, or a medicine that is too old to work well
 - * Keeps medicines from entering streams and rivers when poured down the drain or flushed down the toilet
- For more information, go to www.epa.gov/ppcp/