GOT LEFTOVER MEDICINE?

Before storing it, flushing it, or throwing it out with the trash, READ THIS.

For your safety. And for your family's.

- Every 14 minutes, an American dies from an unintentional drug overdose.
- Seven out of 10 people who abuse prescription drugs get them from friends or family members.
- Among children, emergency room visits for accidental drug poisonings are twice as common as poisonings for other household products (e.g., cleaning solutions).

- Flushing leftover medicines sends them into our rivers, streams, and waterways because wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove them.
- Studies have found antibiotics, anti-seizure medicines, mood stabilizers, and sex hormones in drinking water across the U.S.
- While the long-term human health effects of repeated exposure to low levels of these chemicals are not yet known, the effects on marine life are well-documented and include serious harm to fish populations.

Don't flush! Empty your medicine cabinet in a safer, healthier, and more environmentally responsible way.

Drop Off

Currently, some pharmacies, police stations, and sheriff's offices allow you to drop off your unwanted meds. More drop-off locations are always becoming available at authorized pharmacies, hospitals, clinics, narcotic treatment centers, and long-term care facilities. One-day medicine collection events may also be available in your area. To learn more about potential drop-off locations in your area, visit:

www.productstewardship.us/What_to_do_with_meds

Mail Back

Some pharmacies and other organizations offer postage-paid envelopes for a small fee, which you can use to mail medicines to a safe disposal program. Mail back systems accept controlled and non-controlled substances.

controlled substance
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1. Medicine or drug that is regulated by the government due to its addictive properties and potential for abuse. Examples include prescription painkillers, such as oxycodone (Percocet) and hydrocodone (Vicodin).

Last Resort

ONLY if there are no drop-off sites or mail-back programs available near you, you can discard medicine in the trash by following these guidelines:

1. Cross out any personal information on your medicine bottle.
2. Empty your medicine into a sealable, disposable container. Add cat litter, coffee grounds, or another undesirable substance to discourage abuse.
3. Discard the sealed container with your household trash.
4. Recycle (whenever possible) the empty medicine bottle.

Learn more: www.productstewardship.us/GoToGuide

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Sustainable Solutions to Protect Our Environment