



Medication Disposal at Home



Do you have unwanted or expired medication in your home?

For years, residents have been told to flush old medications down the toilet or sink. **This is not a good idea.**

New research has found medications, hormones and other personal care products in rivers and streams around the country. These substances can adversely affect fish and wildlife. Wastewater treatment plants were not designed to remove these substances from wastewater, so it's important to keep them out of the sewer system. **Proper Disposal: It's a No Drainer.**

If you can't bring medications to the **Cook County Law Enforcement Center lobby**, follow these steps for safe disposal of medication **in the garbage.**

Keep the medication in its original container. The labels may contain safety information and the caps are typically childproof. Leaving the content info clearly visible, cover the patient's name with permanent marker.

Modify the contents to discourage consumption.

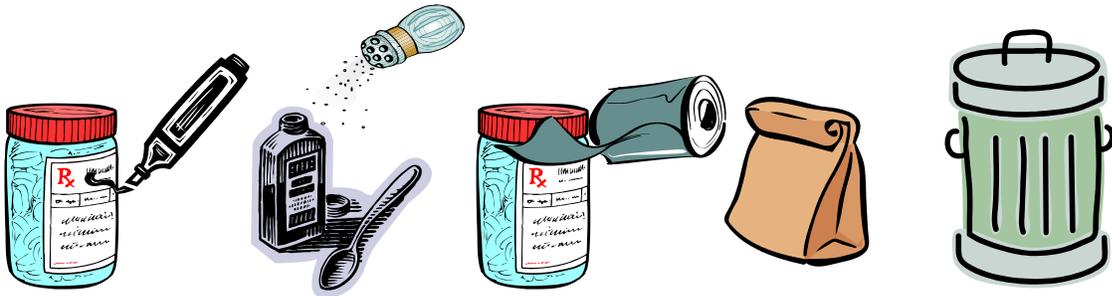
Solid medications: add a small amount of vinegar to pills or capsules to at least partially dissolve them.

Liquid medications: add enough table salt, flour, sawdust or spices to make a pungent unsightly mixture that discourages anyone from eating it.

Blister packs (foil): wrap packages containing pills in opaque tape like duct tape

Seal and conceal. Tape the medication container lid shut with packing or duct tape and put it inside a non-transparent bag or container such as an empty yogurt or margarine tub to ensure that the contents cannot be seen. Do not conceal medicines in food products because they could be inadvertently consumed by wildlife scavengers.

Discard the container in your garbage can—do not place in the recycling bin.



Needles, Lancets & Syringes



NEVER PLACE LOOSE NEEDLES AND SYRINGES IN THE TRASH!!!

It is important to manage and dispose of needles, lancets, and syringes (sharps) safely to prevent injury and disease transmission from needle-sticks. Never leave needles or syringes on streets, in parks, or anywhere else where someone could be injured.

Purchase a sharps disposal container.

Do not store used sharps in glass bottles, aluminum cans, or coffee cans.

If you are bringing used sharps to a hospital collection site or using a mail-back program, follow their requirements.

Always keep storage containers for used sharps out of reach of children.

**Sharps containers can be purchased & dropped off for destruction
at the Cook County North Shore Hospital front desk.
Call them for details @ 387-3040**

Sawtooth Mountain Clinic

a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization



Cook County Law Enforcement Center is Now a Medication Disposal Site!



Ever wonder what to do with your unwanted or expired medications?

For years, residents have been told to flush old medications down the toilet or sink. **This is NOT a good idea.**

New research has found medications, hormones and other personal care products in rivers and streams around the country. These substances can adversely affect fish and wildlife. Wastewater treatment plants were not designed to remove these substances from wastewater, so it's important to keep them out of the sewer system.

**A medication disposal site is now located in the lobby of
the Cook County Law Enforcement Center.**

Here are three simple steps for disposing of your medications:

1. Remove the label from all medication bottles.
2. Put all medication bottles into a secure bag such as a zip lock.
3. Take the bag of medications to the Cook County Law Enforcement Center lobby and deposit them in the container provided.

DO NOT USE THIS DISPOSAL SITE FOR NEEDLES, LANCETS OR SYRINGES!

*Sharps containers can be purchased & dropped off for destruction
at the Cook County North Shore Hospital front desk.
Call them for details @ 387-3040*

