Got Unwanted Medicines?

Your guide to pharmaceutical disposal in Corvallis

Provided by your Recycling Block Captain, Summer 2014

Why not flush or landfill?

Why not flush? Most prescription and over the counter drugs are not removed by wastewater treatment plants and can pass through the system and enter rivers and lakes. In homes that use septic tanks, flushed prescription meds and over the counter drugs can leach into the ground and seep into groundwater.

Why not landfill? It is possible people or animals could find and ingest medicine prior to burial in the landfill.
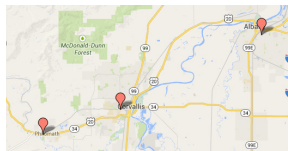
BEST OPTION: Take your unwanted or expired medications to a pharmaceutical drop site or a collection event, which are offered as a public safety service.* The collected medicines are disposed of in the most environmentally sound way, usually by high temperature incineration at a secure, permitted facility.

*There are a few medications that the F.D.A. has identified as especially dangerous if they are ingested by someone other than the person for whom it was prescribed. If these cannot be safely stored or immediately taken to a drop site, the F.D.A. recommends flushing. See http://tinyurl.com/log7kyp for details.

So how should I dispose of it?

Year-Round Drop Sites

- **OSU Department of Public Safety:** Cascade Hall, 601 SW 17th St. on the OSU campus, near 2nd floor elevator (541-737-3010). Drop box accessible 24/7.
- **Philomath Police Department:** 1010 Applegate St., Philomath (541-929-6911). Drop box accessible Mon. – Fri., 8 am – 12 pm and 1-4:30 pm.
- **Albany Police Department:** 1117 Jackson St. SE, Albany (541-917-7680). Drop box accessible 24/7.

Annual Collection Events

- **City of Corvallis & U.S. D.E.A.:** Held 1-2 times per year (call 541-766-6336 or visit www.corvallisoregon.gov for dates and times)
- **Benton Co. Sheriff's Office:** Held each spring (call 541-766-6858 or visit https://www.co.benton.or.us/sheriff for dates and times)

Sharps Return Programs

The following locations will accept sharps (needles, syringes, etc.) for disposal. They must be in a sharps disposal container. Inquire at the pharmacy about fees (most pharmacies require in-store purchase of sharps container, with the disposal fee included in the price).

- **Bi-Mart Pharmacies:** 2045 NW 9th St. and 1555 SW 53rd St.
- **Fred Meyer Pharmacy:** 777 NW Kings Blvd.
- **Kmart Pharmacy:** 400 NE Circle Blvd.
- **Pill Box Health Center:** 906 NW Kings Blvd.
- **Rice's:** 910 NW Kings Blvd.
- **Samaritan Pharmacy Service:** 3521 NW Samaritan Dr. #202
- **Republic Services** offers a mail back sharps disposal service that is a safe, confidential and convenient method for the proper disposal of sharps waste including needles and syringes, razor blades, and tattoo needles and piercing devices. See http://republicsharps.com for details and pricing.

What about the packaging materials?

Pharmacy programs

First, ask your pharmacist if they will refill your prescription bottles so they can be reused! For example, Rice's Pharmacy (910 NW Kings Blvd) will refill prescription bottles with the same medication, upon your request.

If your pharmacy does not offer a bottle refill option, ask if they have a recycling program for amber pill bottles (which are not accepted in commingle recycling).

Disposal at the curb

Tips for disposing of packaging that contained medications:

- Clean rigid plastic bottles without caps go into your commingled recycling cart with one exception - no transparent amber plastic. Paper boxes also go into your commingle cart.
- Clean glass bottles without caps go into your glass recycling bin.
- All blister packs and rigid plastic caps go into your trash.

COMMINGLE RECYCLE CART   **GLASS RECYCLE BIN**   **TRASH CART**

CORVALLIS sustainability COALITION