



HOME (/)
CLOGGING CRIMINALS (/CLOGGING-CRIMINALS)
FATS, OILS, GREASE (/GREASE)
FROZEN PIPES (/FROZEN-PIPES)
WIPES (/WIPES)
MEDICATIONS (/MEDICATIONS)
ABOUT
WHO WE ARE (/WHO-WE-ARE)
LICENSE THIS CAMPAIGN (/LICENSE)
CONTACT (/CONTACT)

MANAGING MEDICATION

Though originally intended to help us, unwanted medications can turn out to be the most dangerous criminals of all! Whether simply unused or expired, unwanted medication can cause serious health problems to humans and animals if they fall into the wrong hands (or paws). Additionally, medication that is flushed down the toilet can impact the health of fish and other wildlife. Most medicines are not completely removed by wastewater treatment processes or septic systems. Proper disposal of unwanted medication will prevent consumption of the drug by people for whom the medicine was not prescribed and prevent environmental contamination of our waterways and soils. You have the power to protect your family and community's health!

About one-third of medicines sold to households in metropolitan Washington go unused every year -that amounts to about 33 million containers per year. **What to do with unwanted meds?**

DRUG TAKE-BACK DAYS

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is a nationwide biannual collection event of expired and unwanted medications. The initiative is being promoted by the **Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments** (<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/>) (COG) and regional partners, including law enforcement agencies, water utilities, and health officials. Proper medication disposal keeps our communities safe by preventing drug abuse, accidental ingestion and the contamination of our water supplies. **The service is free and you can search for collection locations here** (https://apps2.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/NTBI/ntbi-pub.pub?_flowExecutionKey=_c4DE02FA6-3E72-CCCD-F215-D6BEEFE0A778_kD8E675D0-7A99-17BA-828C-B53B24A6C98D).



THE NEXT DRUG TAKE BACK DAY WILL
BE IN OCT. 2021.

(https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html)

YEAR-ROUND MEDICATION DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

The DEA offers a searchable map, where you can find the nearest drop off box.

Find one near you: ([https://apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?](https://apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e1s1)

[execution=e1s1](https://apps2.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e3s1))**http://tiny.cc/eacysz** (<https://apps2.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e3s1>)

SAFE DISPOSAL OF MEDICATIONS IN THE TRASH CAN

You can always safely dispose of medications in the trash, using the guidelines below.

Check the pill bottle for any instructions on proper disposal. If none are present, proceed to the following steps.

1. Remove medication from original containers. Do not crush tablets or capsules.
2. Mix medication with undesirable substance like kitty litter or used coffee grounds. The drugs will be less appealing to children and pets, and obfuscate the medicines that some people may seek by going through the trash.
3. Place mixture in a sealable, secure bag, can, or container.

4. Throw away sealed container and contents into garbage.
5. Scratch off all personal identifying information on the prescription label so that it is unreadable before recycling pill bottle or medicine container.

