



Environmentally Safe Disposal of Prescription Drugs

Over the counter and prescription medications should not be disposed down the drain because wastewater treatment facilities are not designed to remove pharmaceutical compounds and they may end up in your local waterways, and may eventually be found in your drinking water. Properly disposing of unwanted and expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications in the trash promotes a healthy aquatic environment and prevents accidental poisoning and intentional abuse.

What should you do?

Take part in the first statewide medical disposal day on November 14th and bring of your expired/unused prescription drugs to an official collection location. This statewide effort, with over 420 participating New Jersey police departments, is being spearheaded by the Drug Enforcement Administration's New Jersey Division (DEA), the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General and the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey (PDFNJ). Local collection sites can be found at www.operationmedicinecabinetnj.com



On Saturday November 14th, between 10am and 2pm, bring your expired or unused medicine to your local collection site. By joining **Operation Medicine Cabinet, you will be safely disposing medications that are commonly abused.**

If no collection sites/opportunities exist, then individuals and households should follow the following Department guidelines on how to properly dispose of their over-the-counter and prescription medication in a safe manner that protects the environment and public health. Doctors, pharmacies, and health care professionals are encouraged to share this information with their clientele. The Department wishes to emphasize that these are guidelines that apply only to households and individuals and will in no way effect the legal or regulatory obligations of any other entity.

COMPLIANCE ADVISORY

All residents should dispose of excess, expired, or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medication by following these four simple steps:

Step 1



Mark out personal information

Step 2



Mix with water and coffee grinds, cat litter, or dirt

Step 3



Place in opaque container

Step 4



Hide in the trash

What is DEP doing?

The Department is sharing these newly developed guidelines with members of the public, health care professionals, and agencies within the state that may be interested. The Department is also encouraging New Jersey residents to adopt these disposal practices to protect human health and the environment.

Who should I contact with questions?

Please contact Julie Townsend at (609) 292-1305 or Julie.Townsend@dep.state.nj.us.

Where can I get more information?

The following web site can be accessed for additional information regarding this advisory:

EPA-Pharmaceuticals & Personal

Care Products as Pollutants

Operation Medicine Cabinet

Office of National Drug Control

Policy-Proper Disposal of

Prescription Drugs (Oct 2009)

Disposal Guidelines

Regulated Medical Waste

<http://www.epa.gov/ppcp/>

<http://www.operationmedicynecabinetnj.com/>

http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/pdf/prescrip_disposal.pdf

http://www.nj.gov/dep/docs/Prescription_Med_Disposal.pdf

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/rntp/rmw.htm>

Visit the following Web site for general information:

Contact NJDEP: <http://www.nj.gov/cgi-bin/dep/contactdep.pl>

To comment on this advisory:

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/survey.html>

Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of a department initiative. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have any questions related to compliance with this initiative, please contact the number listed above.