



Current Disposal Recommendations to the Public

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State agencies, the federal government, and other groups (including the “No Drugs Down the Drain” campaign in California) have developed guidelines intended to educate the public how to dispose of their waste pharmaceuticals in a safe and environmentally-preferable manner. These recommendations are all similar; this table highlights some of the variations.

State/Agency	Guidelines
Office of Nat'l Drug Control Policy (revised March 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Do not flush prescription drugs unless label or other information instructions you to do so. (See FDA website.) ✓ Take advantage of community take-back programs or household hazardous waste collection events, if available. Contact you city or county. ✓ If take-back program is not available, remove drug from original container, mix with undesirable substance, put in disposal container/bag, remove/conceal personal information on empty drug containers, place all in trash.
Fish & Wildlife and American Pharmacists Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Do not flush (except specific substances; see footnote). ✓ Mix with undesirable substance, then throw in trash in sealed, plastic bag. ✓ Use take-back programs if available, and ask your pharmacist for guidance.
Boise, Idaho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Take drugs out of original container. ✓ Mix drugs with an undesirable substance such as coffee grounds or kitty litter. ✓ Put mixture in a nondescript container, such as empty cans or sealable bags (to further insure drugs are not diverted or accidentally ingested by children or pets). ✓ Bury in trash.
Connecticut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Never flush drugs. ✓ Leave drugs in original container when discarding in trash, but mark out personal information to protect privacy in discourage use. ✓ Modify medications to prevent misuse.
Kansas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Do not flush. ✓ Crush and dissolve medications and put in an opaque container, then dispose of as MSW.
Illinois	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Finish prescriptions, buy only what you will use. ✓ Use take-back program or HHW if available; if not, dispose in trash. ✓ Keep drugs in original container, mark out personal information, seal lid, mask contents and place in trash. ✓ Do not burn.

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State/Agency	Guidelines
Oregon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Keep waste pharmaceuticals in their original containers with their labels. ✓ Place waste pharmaceuticals in durable packaging that masks the contents. ✓ Place liquid pharmaceuticals in a plastic sealable bag. ✓ Place waste pharmaceuticals in the trash as close to garbage pickup time as possible. ✓ Do not burn or flush drugs.
Florida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Never flush drugs. ✓ Modify medication, put back in container, and mark out name and prescription number (but not prescription name) on the label. Put container in an opaque container, seal, and place in the trash.
Michigan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ First see if pharmacy or local collection program will take back medications. ✓ Never flush drugs. ✓ Modify drugs, put back in container, and mark out name and prescription number (but not prescription name) on the label. Put container in an opaque container or double bag, seal, and place in the trash.
Minnesota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Never flush drugs. ✓ Modify medications to prevent misuse. ✓ For residents whose trash goes to a landfill, first look for collection options ✓ For residents whose trash goes to an incinerator, dispose in trash.
New Hampshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Never flush drugs. ✓ Modify drugs, put back in container, and put container in another container or heavy bag, then place in trash.
New York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use drug take-back program if available ✓ Do not flush any substances. ✓ Modify drugs, put back in container, remove personal and prescription information, put in a second bag or container, and put in trash. ✓ Never put in food.
North Dakota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ See federal guidelines.
Oregon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Never flush, burn, or dispose of drugs in garbage for permitted solid waste landfill or incinerator. ✓ Keep drugs in original container, mark out personal information, seal lid, mask contents and place in trash.
Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Return medications to pharmacy if there is one that does take-backs nearby ✓ Modify drugs, put back in container, seal in an opaque bag, and put in trash.
Wisconsin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Donate eligible pharmaceuticals. ✓ If possible, take drugs to a collection program or event. ✓ Never burn or flush pharmaceuticals. ✓ Modify drugs, put back in container, remove personal and prescription information, put in a second bag or container, and put in trash.