

Prescription Collection

The Best Place to Get Rid of Medicines

Unwanted, unused prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines can be found in every household in the county. We know that it's not safe to keep unneeded medicines in the house – children and others can accidentally take them. But you've also heard that you shouldn't flush medicines down the toilet or put them in the trash. We now know that these medicines are bad for our environment – our water, our lakes and the animals in them. *So... how should you get rid of your medicines?*

FAQ

Q: Should my medicines be in their original containers?

A: If possible, leave your medicines in their original containers with the drug name readable. One of our responsibilities is to separate all medicines into separate waste streams and it helps if we can easily identify the drug. For privacy, you may cross out your name and other personal information with a pen or marker.

Q: I just missed the Clean Sweep Prescription Collection, what do I do?

The safest way to dispose of your drugs is to use a medication take-back program. There are several of these programs throughout Wisconsin and many of these are listed on a website managed by the [University of Wisconsin Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center](#) (<http://www4.uwm.edu/shwec/pharmaceuticalCollection/viewRecords.cfm>). There may be another program in Wisconsin that is convenient for you. If you do not feel safe keeping the medicines in your home until the next take-back event, then you should dispose of them as recommended by the [FDA](#) (<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/EnsuringSafeUseofMedicine/SafeDisposalofMedicines/ucm186187.htm>) and the drug manufacturer.