



How to dispose of unused medications, including antibiotics!

Medicines, including antibiotics, play an important role in treating many conditions and diseases, but when they are unused, unwanted or expired, it's important to dispose of them properly in order to avoid harm to people, pets, and the environment.

- Unneeded medications left in the household may be inappropriately used or accidentally ingested, especially by the elderly, children, or pets.
- Unneeded medications that are not properly disposed of can contaminate the water system, impacting both animal and human life. Low levels of antibiotics in the environment can also lead to antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Unused medications should NOT be flushed down the toilet or poured down the drain.

Steps to Properly Dispose of Medications (including Antibiotics):

- 1) Make sure to keep all medications away from children and pets.
- 2) Scratch out, mark out or remove any identifying patient information on the label.
- 3) Place pills into a sealable plastic bag.
- 4) Keep liquid medications in the original child-resistant container, but still place in a sealable plastic bag to prevent leakage.
- 5) Drop off the medication at a facility with a medication take-back program (see reverse side of this page for a list of locations). Please note the following:
 - a. Call ahead as hours of operation and materials accepted are subject to change.
 - b. Some county facilities require proof of residency before materials are accepted.If you are unable to take your medications to one of these facilities, AS A LAST RESORT medications may be placed in household trash AFTER doing the following:
 - a. Place a little water into the sealable plastic bag containing the pills.
 - b. Add an unpalatable substance, such as used coffee grounds, saw dust or kitty litter, to the sealable plastic bag (for pills) or to the original container (for liquid medications).
 - c. Close and seal the bag or container with packing or duct tape.
 - d. Place the container in another sealable bag, can or other container before discarding in trash.

SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS:

- a. Controlled substances (such as narcotics) require special handling and are accepted at only some facilities (such as the Alameda County Sheriff's Office).
- b. Chemotherapy and immunosuppressive drugs may require special handling so discuss appropriate disposal with your medical provider or pharmacist.

Online Resources:

FDA:

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/EnsuringSafeUseofMedicine/SafeDisposalofMedicines/ucm186187.htm#MEDICINES>

California/Bay Area:

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/Medications/household.htm>

<http://www.savesfbay.org/pharmaceutical-disposal-sites>

Alameda County:

http://acseniors-medisposal.net/disposal_sites.html

<http://www.stopwaste.org/home/index.asp?page=293>

Contra Costa County:

<http://www.cccounty.us/depart/cd/recycle/options/mmeds.htm>

http://www.centraisn.org/documents/Pharmaceutical_Disposal_Brochure.pdf



Locations for Safe Medication Disposal

ALAMEDA COUNTY

| Name of Facility | Address | Telephone Number |
|---|---|--|
| Alta Bates Milvia Outpatient Pharmacy | 2500 Milvia Street, Suite 130, Berkeley | (510) 204-6550 |
| Teleosis Institute Office | 863 Arlington Ave, Berkeley | (510) 558-7285 Drop off: Mon-Thu 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-1pm |
| Transcendentist | 3030 Ashby Ave., Suite 101, Berkeley | (510) 841-3040 Drop off: Mon-Thu 9am-5pm, some Fridays |
| United Pharmacy | 2929 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley | (510) 843-3201 Drop off: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-2pm |
| Eden Medical Center (Bin at Emergency Entrance) | 20103 Lake Chabot Road, Castro Valley | (510) 537-1234 |
| Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Site | 41149 Boyce Road, Fremont | 1-877-STOPWASTE Drop off: Wed-Fri 8:30am-2:30pm, Sat 8am-4:30pm |
| Fremont Recycling & Transfer Station | 41149 Boyce Road, Fremont | (510) 252-0500 |
| Haller's Pharmacy and Medical Supply | 37323 Fremont Blvd, Fremont | (510) 797-2772 |
| Washington Hospital Community Health Resource Library | 2500 Mowry Ave, Fremont | (510) 477-7621 |
| Washington Hospital (Bin in Main Lobby) | 2000 Mowry Ave, Fremont | (510) 797-1111 |
| Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Site | 2091 West Winton Avenue, Hayward | (800) 606-6606 Drop off: Thu-Sat 9am-1pm (every other week) |
| Ted's Drugs | 27453 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward | (510) 782-6494 |
| Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Site | 5584 La Ribera St., Livermore | (800) 606-6606 Drop off: Thu-Sat 9am-1pm |
| Washington Township Medical Group | 35500 Dumbarton Ct, Newark | (510) 477-7621 |
| Washington Township Medical Group at Warm Springs | 46690 Mohave Drive, Newark | (510) 477-7621 |
| Haller's Pharmacy Newark | 6170 Thornton Ave., Newark | (510) 797-4333 |
| Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Site | 2100 E. 7th Street, Oakland | (800) 606-6606 Drop off: Thu-Sat 9am-1pm |
| Alta Bates Peralta Outpatient Pharmacy | 3300 Webster Street, Oakland | (510) 869-8835 Drop off: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm |
| Medicine Drop-Off at the California State Building | 1515 Clay Street, Oakland | (510) 287-1651 Drop off: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm |
| Alameda County Sheriff's Office (accepts controlled substances) | 15001 Foothill Blvd., San Leandro | (510) 667-7721 Drop off: Mon-Fri 7am-5pm |
| Davis Street Clinic | 3081 Teagarden Street, San Leandro | (510) 347-4620 Drop off: Mon-Thurs 8-8pm & Fri 8-6pm |
| Medical Arts Pharmacy | 13847 E. 14th Street, San Leandro | (510) 357-1881 |
| Washington Township Medical Group | 33077 Alvarado Niles Rd, Union City | (510) 477-7621 |

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

| Name of Facility | Address | Telephone Number |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Delta Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (East County) | 2550 Pittsburg-Antioch Highway, Antioch | (925) 756-1990 |
| Clayton Police Department | 6000 Heritage Trail, Clayton | (925) 673-7350 |
| Concord Police Department | 1350 Galindo St., Concord | (925) 671-3200 |
| Danville Police Department | 510 La Gonda Way, Danville | (925) 314-3700 |
| Contra Costa County Sheriff's Field Operations Building | 1980 Muir Road, Martinez | |
| Contra Costa Regional Medical Center – Sheriff's Substation | 2500 Alhambra Ave, Martinez | |
| Martinez Police Department | 525 Henrietta St., Martinez | 925-372-3440 |
| Moraga Police Department | 329 Rheem Blvd., Moraga | (925) 284-5010 |
| Orinda Police Department | 22 Orinda Way, Orinda | (925) 254-6820 |
| Contra Costa County Household Hazardous Waste West County Resource Recovery | 101 Pittsburg Avenue, Richmond | (510) 412-4500, (888) 412-9277 |
| San Ramon Police Department | 2401 Crow Canyon Rd., San Ramon | (925) 973-2700 |
| Walnut Creek City Hall | 1666 North Main Street, Walnut Creek | (925) 943-5899 |