



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.centalsan.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