

For more information on medication collection in Milwaukee County, contact the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District at 414-272-5100 or the web at <http://v3.mmsd.com>.

Additional information on medication disposal is available through the Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov.

Some municipalities may participate in a grant program whereby medications can be *mailed* to an EPA-approved disposal site. Contact your local health department or the EPA for more information on **Get the Meds Out** program.

Safe Medication Disposal:

A Prescription for Safe Water and Safe Kids



Publication preparation by the Hales Corners
Health Department.
Adapted from the Office of National Drug Control
Policy, 2009.

October, 2011

Always Keep Medication Out of the Hands of Children

The national poison center toll-free telephone number is 1-800-222-1222. This number connects you to the nearest poison center in your area.

Keep Our Lakes and Rivers Clean

Did you know...?

- When you flush medicine in the toilet it ends up in the water supply.
- Water treatment plants can't remove all the medication from the water.
- The medication in the water pollutes lakes and rivers and may harm people and fish.

What should you do with expired medicine or medicine you no longer need...?

- NEVER FLUSH unwanted or expired medicine. Bring it to a collection site for SAFE disposal.
 - ✓ Protect Lake Michigan
 - ✓ Prevent Childhood Poisonings
 - ✓ Reduce Substance Abuse

- Call your local police department and ask if they will accept your medication, or bring it to a local collection site. When taking to a collection site...
 - ✓ Medication MUST be in its original container.
 - ✓ Original label MUST NOT be removed from the container.
 - ✓ You can cross off your name and any personal information on the bottle.
 - ✓ Pet medications may also be accepted.
 - ✓ Collection sites DO NOT accept sharps or medical waste products.

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District conducts an annual spring collection at Miller Park, usually in April. To obtain more information call MMSD at 414-272-5100.



Local hospitals may also be sites for medicine collection. Froedtert Hospital offers a collection program at the hospital pharmacies. To obtain more information call the West Outpatient Pharmacy at 414-805-5117, or the East Clinic Outpatient Pharmacy at 414-805-6501.

What should you do if you can't make it to a collection center...?

1. Remove the oral medication from the container.
2. Grind up medication pills or empty the medication capsules and mix with used coffee grounds, or cat litter mixed with a little water.
3. Place the mixture in a disposable container with a lid, like a margarine tub, or in a sealed plastic bag.
4. Conceal or remove any personal information, including prescription number, from the medicine bottle by removing the label or covering it with permanent marker.
5. Place the sealed container with the mixture in the trash.
6. Most empty prescription containers can be discarded in your recycling bin. Check with your community recycling program if you have questions.