

Medication Disposal:

Tips and Information for Disposing of Your Pet's Unused Medications

Why does it matter?

Pets and people can get into medications and may accidentally be poisoned. This can even happen if the medication is prescribed for them and is generally safe at small doses.

When medications are washed down the sink or flushed down the toilet, they can end up in our water sources. Fish and other animals living in contaminated water can have impaired development and function.

Tips for safe disposal

- NEVER flush medications down the toilet or wash them down the sink **unless** instructed by your pharmacist or veterinarian.
- If the medication is on the [FDA flush list](#), make sure to dispose of it by flushing it down the toilet.

The goal is to keep medications out of the environment.

- Take action to dispose of unused or unwanted medications properly. To find a medication take-back program visit:
 - unwantedmeds.org
 - rxdrugdropbox.org

What if my community doesn't have any medication take-back programs?

Do not flush the medication!

(Unless it is listed on the [FDA flush list](#))

1. Keep the medication in the original container; do not crush the pills.
2. Add kitty litter or coffee grounds to the medication and tightly replace the lid.
3. Mark out all personal information on the label, leaving the medication name and dose visible.
4. Seal the bottle in a leak-proof container (e.g. coffee can).
5. Dispose of the packaged medication in the regular trash.

General handling information

- Always use the medication **as directed** by your veterinarian.
 - Even if your pet's symptoms get better, finish the course of medication if directed to.
- **Do not** stop a medication without first talking to your veterinarian.
- Store the medication correctly and safely.
 - Keep all medications out of reach of pets and children.
 - Use locked cabinets or store in areas that they cannot access.
- Do not share medications between pets.
 - A medication prescribed for one pet should only be used for that pet.

This handout is intended to provide general information.

*If you have **specific questions**, please contact the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center Pharmacy at **614-292-1010**.*

The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center Pharmacy is NOT a registered collection site and CANNOT take back ANY MEDICATIONS for disposal.

I need to get rid of this medication.

Drug Disposal Options

Do you have medicine you want to get rid of?

Do you have a drug take-back option readily available?

Check the [DEA website](#), as well as your local drugstore and police station for possible options.

NO

YES

Is it on the [FDA flush list](#)?

NO

Follow the FDA [instructions for disposing of medicine in the household trash](#).

YES

[Immediately flush your medicine in the toilet.](#)

Scratch out all personal info on the bottle and recycle/throw it away.

Take your medicine to a drug take-back location.

Do this promptly for [FDA flush list](#) drugs!