



WHAT TO DO WITH OLD OR UNUSED PHARMACEUTICALS?

1. **DO NOT FLUSH** unused medications. Consumers were once advised to flush their expired or unused medications; however, recent environmental impact studies report that this could be having an adverse impact on the environment.
2. When tossing unused medications, protect children and pets from the potentially negative effects. American Pharmacists Association (APhA) recommends that consumers:
 - Crush solid medications or dissolve them in water (this applies for liquid medications as well) and mix with kitty litter or sawdust (or any material that absorbs the dissolved medication and makes it less appealing for pets or children to eat), then place in a sealed plastic bag BEFORE tossing in the trash.
 - Remove and destroy ALL identifying personal information (prescription label) from the medication container.
 - Check for approved state and local collection programs or with area hazardous waste facilities. In certain states, you may be able to take your unused medications to your community pharmacy.
3. Talk To Your Pharmacist. Research shows that pharmacists are one of the most accessible healthcare professionals. As the medication experts on the healthcare team, pharmacists are available to guide you on how to properly dispose of your unused medications.

Following these simple steps can help protect your family and community, minimize a potential negative impact on the environment, and prevent the illegal diversion of unused medications.

For more information on this and other issue on the impacts of pharmaceuticals on the environment visit the following websites:

www.superiorwatersheds.org
www.epa.gov
www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov
www.fws.gov
www.aphanet.org

The Superior Watershed Partnership is working to develop a future system of UP collection sites for electronic waste (E-Waste) and household hazardous waste. In the meantime, inquiries can be directed to the following:

Marquette County Solid Waste Authority	Star Industries
Delta County Landfill	Goodwill