

Where Can I Properly Dispose of My Medications?

Law Enforcement Agencies in Washington County have established proper disposal programs for their residents by installing locked, mounted steel collection bins in the lobbies of their stations. Each agency then collects and properly disposes of the drugs. Bring your unused prescription and over-the-counter medications to the following locations:

Hurricane City Police Department
90 South 700 West, Hurricane
M-F; 8 AM -5 PM, closed Holidays

Washington County Sheriff's Office
750 South 5300 West, Hurricane
7 AM to 5 PM

Washington City Department of Public Safety
95 North Main Street, Washington
M-F; 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.



As collection sites are added throughout Utah they will be posted at:
www.MedicationDisposal.utah.gov

Funding

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality is offering law enforcement agencies a one-time pollution prevention grant, up to \$1,000, to establish a "Drug Collection for Proper Disposal" program.

This funding can be used to pay for: collection boxes, signage, evidence handling, incineration, advertising or associated expenses.

To find out more about this program and how to apply, please visit:

www.MedicationDisposal.utah.gov/funding.htm

Facts About Prescription Drug Disposal

- * Unused medications improperly disposed of can harm you and your environment.
- * Drugs can be scavenged and illegally sold.
- * Children and animals could be poisoned if they find and swallow drugs.
- * When drugs are flushed, they are not removed by the sewage treatment facilities and septic tank systems and can enter the soil, surface water and groundwater.
- * Research studies have shown that exposure to drugs found in waterways is having a serious, negative impact on fish and other aquatic life.
- * Pollution prevention - the elimination or minimization of the pollution source – is preferable to cleaning up the environment.

Proper Disposal of Prescription

and

Over-the-Counter Drugs in Utah



For More Information:

www.MedicationDisposal.utah.gov

No Drugs Down the Toilet or Sink

If you're like most people, you have gathered a collection of prescription drugs and other medicines that are no longer needed.



Once it was common practice to flush these medications down the toilet or sink.

We now know that some of these substances are bad for our environment. The drugs are not removed by sewage treatment plants or septic tanks and may enter surface and ground waters, or soils.



Disposal Guidelines for Utah

DO NOT FLUSH! DO NOT POUR!

Prescription, or over-the-counter medications, should not be flushed down the toilet or sink. Follow these guidelines to dispose of these products properly:

- * First, check with your police department to see if they have a drug collection program;
- * Second, check to see if your community has a household hazardous waste program that collects medications; and
- * Lastly, if no collection options exist, follow these steps:
 - ➔ Remove all labels from prescription bottles;
 - ➔ Mix unused drugs with coffee grounds, kitty litter, or another undesirable substance, and then;
 - ➔ Place this mixture in a sealed container and put in your trash on the day of pick-up.

Learn More About ...

If you would like more information about medication disposal, you may want to visit some of these links:

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has gathered sampling data that confirms the presence of medications in the water and soil:
<http://toxics.usgs.gov/regional/emc.html>

The Partnership for a Drug-Free America informs parents, young adults and teens of the very real risks of misusing medicine, "Prescription Medication Abuse: A Growing Problem."
www.drugfree.org/Parent/Resources/Prescription_Medicine_Misuse

Why Should I Take the Time To Do This?

Properly disposing of unwanted medications may be inconvenient, but there are some very important reasons to do this in a safe and responsible manner.

It's your environment – Please don't flush!

Drugs that are flushed down the toilet cannot be removed by the sewage treatment plant or septic system processes. These substances are released into waterways which can lead to contamination of surface and ground water. Septic tank systems may release the pharmaceuticals into the soil, from which they may reach the ground water.

Abuse is widespread!

Abuse of prescription drugs, particularly painkillers, has increased among teenagers and young adults due to the ease of obtaining drugs. Sixty percent of the persons who abuse painkillers indicated that they received the drugs free from friends or relatives.

You can make a difference!

Children, pets or scavenging animals could find the medication and swallow it. Drugs could be scavenged and illegally sold.

Take action to minimize the threat of accidental poisoning or drug abuse.



Let's take steps now to avoid harm to future generations and the environment.

Your participation is appreciated!