



# How to Dispose of Unwanted Medications



Proper disposal of expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications protects the health of the community by preventing accidental overdose and potential abuse of these medications. It also protects our water supply and environment.

## NEVER DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS BY FLUSHING THEM DOWN THE TOILET OR DRAIN!

### HOW TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS:

1. Keep the medicines in the original container.
2. Mark out your name and prescription number.
3. For pills: add water or soda to start dissolving them. For liquids: add something inedible like cat litter, dirt, or cayenne pepper.
4. Close the lid and secure with duct or packing tape.
5. Place the bottle(s) inside an opaque (non see-through) container like a coffee can or plastic laundry bottle.
6. Tape the container closed.
7. Hide the container in the trash.
8. **Do not put in the blue recycling cart.**

### DRUG TAKE-BACK PROGRAMS

- Residents may take expired or unwanted medications to the Indian River County Sheriff's Office at 4055 41st Ave, Vero Beach. There is a green medication disposal box in the lobby 24/7. No need to call ahead!
- If you have questions or if you are homebound and have a fair amount of medications for disposal, please call the Sheriff's Office at 772-569-6700. You may also visit their website at [ircsheriff.org](http://ircsheriff.org).
- The Walgreens located at 1705 US Highway 1 in Vero Beach also has a medication disposal box next to their pharmacy. No need to call ahead!

**Please do not bring sharps to the medication disposal boxes or put them in the blue recycling cart. See reverse side for information regarding sharps disposal.**



### DEMONSTRATION OF SAFE MEDICINE DISPOSAL:



**Important:** Residents may only transport prescription medications that have been prescribed to them, not any belonging to friends or relatives. Transport medications in their original container.

Brought to you by: Indian River County's Fla. Dept. of Health, Sheriff's Office & the Solid Waste Disposal District.