

## What's the best way to dispose of medication?

1. Use an authorized collection site such as Avita Hospital in Ontario. Avita offers a monitored collection receptacle or drop-box. It offers 24 hour collection of expired and unused/unwanted medicine.

The drug collection receptacle is secured, placed in a publicly accessible space and is regularly monitored by employees.

Please check with your local law enforcement agency to see if they have a drop-box or check this website: [rxdrugdropbox.org](http://rxdrugdropbox.org)

2. Attend a Drug Take Back Event. Call RCSW or your local law enforcement agency for more information or review this website: [deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback](http://deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback)

3. Home Disposal—if options 1 and 2 are unavailable, follow the steps for Home Disposal.



## Can I FluSh medication down the drain?

Don't flush any medications down the toilet or drain unless the label specifically instructs you to do so. Do take expired or unwanted drugs to a drug take-back event or to an authorized collection site.

### Steps for Option 3—Home Disposal

1. Remove your medication from its original container and pour the medication into a sealable plastic container or bag; mix the drugs with an undesirable substance such as kitty litter, dirt, or used coffee grounds.
2. Seal the plastic container or bag.
3. Place the container into your household trash.
4. Remove and destroy all personal information on the medicine's original container and recycle it! Many pill bottles are made from #2 plastic.

<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/where-and-how-dispose-unused-medicines>

## Do any pharmacies or manufacturers take back medications?

Some pharmacies take back medications at their location, while others provide mail back envelopes that send unused and expired medications to companies that dispose them properly. Manufacturers do not take back medication.

Please refer to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's web page, [epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/rx](http://epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/rx), or the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy, [pharmacy.ohio.gov/Pubs/DrugDisposalResources.aspx](http://pharmacy.ohio.gov/Pubs/DrugDisposalResources.aspx), for more options on disposing drugs.

Consumers may also call the DEA Office of Diversion Control's Registration Call Center at 1-800-882-9539 to find an authorized collector.



### National Prescription Drug Take-Back Events

Please put all pills in a Ziploc bag when coming to RCSW's Medicine Collection Events. The events are usually held twice a year during the months of April and October if funding is available. Richland County Solid Waste partners with Metrich for this event.

# Disposal of Medicines and Sharps



Richland County Solid Waste  
1125 National Parkway  
Mansfield, Ohio 44906

419-774-5861

Website: [www.richlandrecycles.com](http://www.richlandrecycles.com)

Facebook: @Richland County Solid Waste,  
Mansfield Ohio

## Examples of Sharps include:

- Needles
- Syringes
- Lancets
- Auto Injectors
- Infusion sets
- Connection needles/sets



## Disposal Options

\*Inquire with the company or pharmacy where you purchase your medical supplies regarding disposal options. Some have programs to accept sharps containers free or for a nominal fee.

\*Check for sharps mail back programs. These programs provide disposal supplies, return disposal packaging, and return labels when you order the sharps container for a fee. For more information, search the internet for "sharps mail back program."

\*Some hospitals may have a program in place for residential sharps. Please contact local hospitals for information.

\*[epa.ohio.gov](http://epa.ohio.gov), NW District: 419-352-8461

# SHARPS DISPOSAL

Used needles and other sharps are dangerous to family members, solid waste workers and pets if not disposed of safely because they can injure people and spread infections that cause serious health conditions such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV.

Ohio law allows for at-home sharps disposal. However, it is encouraged that all sharps are disposed of in an FDA-cleared sharps container or a strong, plastic container, like a laundry detergent or bleach bottle. Seal the container with tape; label it with the word "SHARPS" on all sides in big letters; then dispose of it according to community guidelines.

## SHARPS DISPOSAL



Pet owners who use needles to give medicine to their pets should follow these same sharps disposal guidelines.

**Helpful website:** [fda.gov/medical-devices/safely-using-sharps-needles-and-syringes-home-work-and-travel/best-way-get-rid-used-needles-and-other-sharps](http://fda.gov/medical-devices/safely-using-sharps-needles-and-syringes-home-work-and-travel/best-way-get-rid-used-needles-and-other-sharps)