

Unused Medications Disposal - Frequently Asked Questions

What unwanted, unused or expired household medications are accepted?

- Medication from households is accepted in any form, including prescription, over-the-counter, vitamins, herbal supplements and pet medications. Examples include:
 - Ampoules
 - Blister packs
 - Capsules
 - Creams
 - Cylinders
 - Unused Epipens
 - Gels
 - Inhalers
 - IV bags
 - Liquids
 - Medicated Patches
 - Pills
 - Powders
 - Sprays
 - Tablets
 - Vials

Can I bring in medication for my relative?

- YES, you may bring in medication for a relative if that person is not able to bring in the medication him/herself.

Can I bring in medication that the nursing home gave to me when my relative died?

- YES

Can I dispose of liquid chemotherapy drugs?

- NO. Bring these to the [Washington County Environmental Center](#) in Woodbury at 4039 Cottage Grove Drive, Woodbury MN 55129. See website for hours and direction.

Can I bring my used needles and syringes?

- NO, needles and syringes are not accepted in the drop box. They are accepted for free at the Washington County Environmental Center in Woodbury, 4039 Cottage Grove Drive, Woodbury MN 55129. See [website](#) for hours and direction.

Can I bring my tubing and catheters?

- NO, these are not allowed. If they don't have a needle attached, they can be placed in the trash.

Government Center • 14949 62nd Street North — P.O. Box 6, Stillwater, Minnesota 55082-0006

Phone: 651-430-6655 • Fax: 651-430-6730 • TTY: 651-430-6246

www.co.washington.mn.us

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What is NOT accepted at the drop box?

- NO medications from businesses, including health care facilities, long-term-care facilities, pharmacies, doctor's offices and veterinary clinics.
- NO needles, sharps, used EpiPens or fever thermometers. Instead, bring these items to: Washington County Environmental Center, 4039 Cottage Grove Drive, Woodbury MN 55129 for free, environmentally safe-disposal.
- NO liquid chemotherapy drugs. Bring these to the Environmental Center listed above.

Is there any paperwork to fill out?

- NO, you do not need to fill out any paperwork.

Will I have to show an ID?

- NO, drop-off is safe and anonymous. No ID is required and no questions will be asked.

Will you be collecting information about me when I return my medication?

- NO. No personal information will be collected from the medication bottles.
- Use a heavy duty marker to cross out personal information on the labels (optional).

How should I prepare the medications for drop off?

- Keep medications in their original container and place them in a sealed, clear plastic bag (pills can remain in their blister packs).
- Use a marker to cross out your name on medication containers if you wish. Drop off is anonymous – no ID is required.
- If you don't have the original container, place medication in a clear plastic bag.

What happens to the medications after I drop them off?

- The medications are placed in special containers and securely stored by the Washington County Sheriff's Office. When enough medications have been collected, they are taken under law enforcement escort to a waste-to-energy facility in Minnesota that is licensed to burn this type of waste. The medications are then destroyed.

Is the disposal method environmentally safe?

- Incineration is environmentally safer than other disposal methods, such as flushing or placing in a landfill. The process is highly regulated by the State of Minnesota and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

How do I properly dispose of empty pill bottles?

- Empty medication bottles can be recycled. Leave the cap on and remove the prescription label before recycling.

Who is paying for this service?

- Washington County pays for this service through the use of the County Environmental Charge. The program is a partnership between the Sheriff's Office and the Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment.

Updated 4/2016