

## **Drug disposal of unused, expired, discontinued medications**

**Policy:** If a medication of a consumer/client is unused, expired or discontinued, it is a policy of the facility to quarantine this medication and safely dispose this medication per FDA guidelines.

**Procedure:** Any medication to be quarantined has to be logged in form LIC622, Centrally Stored Medication. Fill the form with;

- a. Medication name
- b. Strength and Quantity remaining to be disposed
- c. Date originally filled
- d. Prescription number
- e. Disposal date (not the date it was discontinued, MAR will state the actual D/C date)
- f. Name of pharmacy that filled it
- g. Signature of administrator or assigned staff disposing the medication
- h. Signature of another staff witnessing the actual disposal procedure. Not a client and should be an adult.

### **Method 1: Drug take-back day**

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) sponsors National Prescription Drug Take Back Day in communities nationwide (twice a year). Many communities also have their own drug take back programs. Check with your local law enforcement officials to find a location near you or with the DEA to find a DEA-authorized collector in your community.

### **Method 2: Dispose medicine in trash (Meds not on the 'flush list')**

If no drug take back sites, locations, or programs are available in your area, **and** there are no specific disposal instructions (such as flushing) in the medication guide or package insert, you can follow these simple steps to dispose of most medicines in your trash at home\*:

1. Mix medicines (liquid or pills; do not crush tablets or capsules) with an unappealing substance such as dirt, cat litter, or used coffee grounds;
2. Place the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag;
3. Throw away the container in your trash at home; and
4. Delete all personal information on the prescription label of empty medicine bottles or medicine packaging, then trash or recycle the empty bottle or packaging.



### **Method 3: Flushing in the Toilet**

Because some medicines could be especially harmful to others, they have specific directions to immediately flush them down the sink or toilet when they are no longer needed, and a take-back option is not readily available.

A separate page has the 'flush list'.

### **Method 4: Pharmacies participating in drug take backs**

Some Pharmacies have installed disposal bins.\* These bins typically are unattended and very similar to a drop box similar to the postal service, UPS or FedEx.\*\*

1. Blister packs should be emptied from original container and place medications in a sealed plastic bag prior to discarding.
2. Delete all personal information on the prescription label of empty medicine bottles or medicine packaging, then trash or recycle the empty bottle or packaging.

**\*Botika LTC is a closed-door retail pharmacy. The pharmacy does not have disposal bin for unused, unwanted or expired medications thereby unable to accept any returns through our delivery or on-site location.**

**\*\*Disposal of medication by this method requires to have both staff ( administrator/ representative and witness) to be present when the sealed bag is dropped off at the disposal bin.**

**FDA U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION**

**Drug Disposal Options**  
Do you have medicine you want to get rid of?

I need to get rid of this medication.

Do you have a drug take-back option readily available?  
Check the [DEA website](#), as well as your local drugstore and police station for possible options.

**NO**

Is it on the [FDA flush list](#)?

**NO**  
Follow the [FDA instructions for disposing of medicine in the household trash](#).

**YES**  
**Immediately flush your medicine in the toilet.**  
Scratch out all personal info on the bottle and recycle/throw it away.

**YES**  
Take your medicine to a drug take-back location.  
Do this promptly for [FDA flush list](#) drugs!

[www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)

## **Other methods of disposing medications.**

### **Disposing of Fentanyl Patches**

Some prescription drugs — such as powerful narcotic pain medicines and other controlled substances — have instructions for flushing to reduce the danger of overdose from unintentional or illegal use.

One example is the fentanyl patch. This adhesive patch delivers a strong pain medicine through the skin. Even after a patch is used, a lot of the medicine remains. That's why the drug comes with instructions to flush used or leftover patches.

### **Disposing of Inhaler Products**

One environmental concern involves inhalers used by people who have asthma or other breathing problems, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Read handling instructions on the labeling of inhalers and aerosol products. These products could be dangerous if punctured or thrown into a fire or incinerator. To properly dispose of these products and follow local regulations and laws, contact your trash and recycling facility.

## List of medicines recommended for disposal by flushing

This list from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) tells you which medicines you should flush when they are no longer needed. Links in the list below direct you to medicine information for consumers that includes specific disposal instructions.

<b>Benzhydrocodone /Acetaminophen</b>	<a href="#">Apadaz</a>
<b>Buprenorphine</b>	<a href="#">Belbuca</a> , <a href="#">Bunavail</a> , <a href="#">Butrans</a> , <a href="#">Suboxone</a> , <a href="#">Subutex</a> , <a href="#">Zubsolv</a>
<b>Fentanyl</b>	<a href="#">Abstral</a> , <a href="#">Actiq</a> , <a href="#">Duragesic</a> , <a href="#">Fentora</a> , <a href="#">Onsolis</a>
<b>Diazepam</b>	<a href="#">Diastat/Diastat AcuDial rectal gel</a>
<b>Hydrocodone</b>	<a href="#">Anexsia</a> , <a href="#">Hysingla ER</a> , <a href="#">Lortab</a> , <a href="#">Norco</a> , <a href="#">Reprexain</a> , <a href="#">Vicodin</a> , <a href="#">Vicoprofen</a> , <a href="#">Zohydro ER</a>
<b>Hydromorphone</b>	<a href="#">Dilaudid</a> , <a href="#">Exalgo</a>
<b>Meperidine</b>	<a href="#">Demerol</a>
<b>Methadone</b>	<a href="#">Dolophine</a> , <a href="#">Methadose</a>
<b>Methylphenidate</b>	Daytrana transdermal patch system
<b>Morphine</b>	<a href="#">Arymo ER</a> , <a href="#">Embeda</a> , <a href="#">Kadian</a> , <a href="#">Morphabond ER</a> , <a href="#">MS Contin</a> , <a href="#">Avinza</a>
<b>Oxycodone</b>	<a href="#">Combunox</a> , <a href="#">Oxaydo</a> (formerly Oxecta), <a href="#">OxyContin</a> , <a href="#">Percocet</a> , <a href="#">Percodan</a> , <a href="#">Roxicet</a> , <a href="#">Roxicodone</a> , <a href="#">Roxybond</a> , <a href="#">Targiniq ER</a> , <a href="#">Xartemis XR</a> , <a href="#">Xtampza ER</a>
<b>Oxymorphone</b>	<a href="#">Opana</a> , <a href="#">Opana ER</a>
<b>Tapentadol</b>	<a href="#">Nucynta</a> , <a href="#">Nucynta ER</a>
<b>Sodium Oxybate</b>	<a href="#">Xyrem oral solution</a>

FDA believes that the known risk of harm, including death, to humans from accidental exposure to the medicines listed above, especially potent opioid medicines, far outweighs any potential risk to humans or the environment from flushing these medicines. FDA will continue to conduct risk assessments as a part of our larger activities related to the safe use of medicines.

For disposal information, specific to another medication you are taking please [visit Drugs@FDA](mailto:Drugs@FDA). Once there type in the medication name and click on search. Then click on the label section for that specific medication. Select the most recent label and search for the term “disposal.”

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