

How do I properly dispose of medications?

Managing unused medications is a safety as well as an environmental concern. Clean out your medicine cabinet to prevent accidental ingestion by children or pets and abuse or misuse. Proper disposal will prevent medications from entering soil and groundwater. The Board of Pharmacy encourages you to consider the following guidelines when disposing of medications:



1. Remove all medications from their original containers. Scratch out or remove all identifying information on the prescription label on the original container to protect your identity and the privacy of your personal health information before throwing it away.
2. Place the medications in an impermeable, non-descript container (such as an empty laundry detergent bottle or coffee can), and mix with water or coffee to dissolve the medications.
3. Mix with an undesirable substance such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter (the medication will be less appealing to children and pets, and unrecognizable to people who may intentionally go through your trash). Tightly seal the container and throw it away.

In general, avoid flushing medications down the toilet whenever possible

The FDA recommends the following medications be flushed down the toilet instead of thrown in the trash.

Actiq (fentanyl citrate)

Daytrana Transdermal Patch (methylphenidate)

Duragesic Transdermal System (fentanyl)

OxyContin Tablets (oxycodone)

Percocet (oxycodone and acetaminophen)

Baraclude Tablets (entecavir)

Reyataz Capsules (atazanavir sulfate)

Zerit for Oral Solution (stavudine)

Meperidine HCL Tablets

Xyrem (sodium oxybate)

Avinza Capsules (morphine sulfate)

Fentora (fentanyl buccal tablet)

Tequin Tablets (gatifloxacin)

Note: Patients should always refer to printed materials accompanying their medication for specific instructions.