



## Current Disposal Recommendations to the Public

December 1, 2008

State agencies, the federal government, and other groups (including the “No Drugs Down the Drain” campaign in California) have developed guidelines intended to educate the public how to dispose of their waste pharmaceuticals in a safe and environmentally-preferable manner.

These recommendations are all similar; this table highlights the variations.

State/Agency	Guidelines (state guidelines show how they vary from federal guidelines)
<a href="#">Office of Nat'l Drug Control Policy</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Take waste pharmaceuticals out of their original containers and throw them in the trash. Mix with an undesirable substance and enclose in impermeable, non-descript containers.</li> <li>✓ Flush drugs <i>only</i> if the label or patient information specifically instructs doing so.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>✓ Use take-back programs if available.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Fish &amp; Wildlife and American Pharmacists Association</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Do not flush (except specific substances; see footnote).</li> <li>✓ Mix with undesirable substance, then throw in trash in sealed, plastic bag.</li> <li>✓ Use take-back programs if available, and ask your pharmacist for guidance.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Connecticut</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Never flush drugs.</li> <li>✓ Leave drugs in original container when discarding in trash, but mark out personal information to protect privacy in discourage use.</li> <li>✓ Modify medications to prevent misuse.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Kansas</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Do not flush.</li> <li>✓ Crush and dissolve medications and put in an opaque container, then dispose of as MSW.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Illinois</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Finish prescriptions, buy only what you will use.</li> <li>✓ Use take-back program or HHW if available; if not, dispose in trash.</li> <li>✓ Keep drugs in original container, mark out personal information, seal lid, mask contents and place in trash.</li> <li>✓ Do not burn.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Oregon</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Keep waste pharmaceuticals in their original containers with their labels.</li> <li>✓ Place waste pharmaceuticals in durable packaging that masks the contents.</li> <li>✓ Place liquid pharmaceuticals in a plastic sealable bag.</li> <li>✓ Place waste pharmaceuticals in the trash as close to garbage pickup time as possible.</li> <li>✓ Do not burn or flush drugs.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> **Actiq** (fentanyl citrate), **Daytrana Transdermal Patch** (methylphenidate), **Duragesic Transdermal System** (fentanyl), **OxyContin Tablets** (oxycodone), **Avinza Capsules** (morphine sulfate), **Baraclude Tablets** (entecavir), **Reyataz Capsules** (atazanavir sulfate), **Tequin Tablets** (gatifloxacin), **Zerit for Oral Solution** (stavudine), **Meperidine HCl Tablets**, **Percocet** (Oxycodone and Acetaminophen), **Xyrem** (Sodium Oxybate), **Fentora** (fentanyl buccal tablet)

<a href="#">Florida</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Never flush drugs.</li> <li>✓ Modify medication, put back in container, and mark out name and prescription number (but not prescription name) on the label. Put container in an opaque container, seal, and place in the trash.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Michigan</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ First see if pharmacy or local collection program will take back medications.</li> <li>✓ Never flush drugs.</li> <li>✓ Modify drugs, put back in container, and mark out name and prescription number (but not prescription name) on the label. Put container in an opaque container or double bag, seal, and place in the trash.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Minnesota</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Never flush drugs.</li> <li>✓ Modify medications to prevent misuse.</li> <li>✓ For residents whose trash goes to a landfill, first look for collection options</li> <li>✓ For residents whose trash goes to an incinerator, dispose in trash.</li> <li>✓ MN is drafting a policy for law enforcement to dispose of controlled substances via witnessed burn in a SW incinerator.</li> <li>✓ Actively working on source reduction (MNTAP) <a href="http://mntap.umn.edu/health/94-PharmWaste.htm">http://mntap.umn.edu/health/94-PharmWaste.htm</a> .</li> </ul>
<a href="#">New Hampshire</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Never flush drugs.</li> <li>✓ Modify drugs, put back in container, and put container in another container or heavy bag, then place in trash.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">New York</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Use drug take-back program if available</li> <li>✓ Do not flush any substances.</li> <li>✓ Modify drugs, put back in container, remove personal and prescription information, put in a second bag or container, and put in trash.</li> <li>✓ Never put in food.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Oregon</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Never flush, burn, or dispose of drugs in garbage for permitted solid waste landfill or incinerator.</li> <li>✓ Keep drugs in original container, mark out personal information, seal lid, mask contents and place in trash.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Washington</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Return medications to pharmacy if there is one that does take-backs nearby</li> <li>✓ Modify drugs, put back in container, seal in an opaque bag, and put in trash.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Wisconsin</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Donate eligible pharmaceuticals.</li> <li>✓ If possible, take drugs to a collection program or event.</li> <li>✓ Never burn or flush pharmaceuticals.</li> <li>✓ Modify drugs, put back in container, remove personal and prescription information, put in a second bag or container, and put in trash.</li> </ul>