



Expired or Unwanted Medication Disposal

As outlined by the FDA

1. Remove them from their original containers and mix them with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter (this makes the drug less appealing to children and pets, and unrecognizable to people who may intentionally go through the trash seeking drugs).
2. Place the mixture in a sealable bag, empty can, or other container to prevent the drug from leaking or breaking out of a garbage bag.*
3. Before throwing out a medicine container, scratch out all identifying information on the prescription label to make it unreadable. This will help protect your identity and the privacy of your personal health information.

Certain Controlled Substances:

There is a small number of medicines that may be especially harmful and, in some cases, fatal with just one dose if they are used by someone other than the person for whom the medicine was prescribed. To prevent accidental ingestion by children, pets, or anyone else, a few medicines have specific disposal instructions indicating they should be flushed down the sink or toilet as soon as they are no longer needed, and when they cannot be disposed of through a medicine take-back program. See list on back of this sheet.

Inhalants:

Another environmental concern lies with inhalers used by people who have asthma or other breathing problems, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Traditionally, many inhalers have contained chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), a propellant that damages the protective ozone layer. However, CFCs have been phased out of inhalers and are being replaced with more environmentally friendly inhalers by the end of 2013. Read handling instructions on the labeling of inhalers and aerosol products because they could be dangerous if punctured or thrown into a fire or incinerator. To ensure safe disposal that complies with local regulations and laws, contact your local trash and recycling facility.

Alternative Sharps Disposal Containers:

If an FDA-cleared container is not available, some organizations and community guidelines recommend using a heavy-duty plastic household container as an alternative. Household containers should also have the basic features of a good sharps disposal container described below.

- made of a heavy-duty plastic;
- able to close with a tight-fitting, puncture-resistant lid, without sharps able to come out;
- upright and stable during use;
- leak-resistant;
- properly labeled to warn of hazardous waste inside the container.

Sharps disposal guidelines and programs vary depending on where you live. Check with your local trash removal services or health department to see which disposal methods are available in your area.

**Consumers are advised to check their local laws and ordinances to make sure medicines can legally be disposed of with their household trash.*

Medicines recommended by FDA for disposal by flushing: medicine and active ingredient	
<i>Medicine</i>	<i>Active Ingredient</i>
Abstral (PDF - 1M), tablets (sublingual)	Fentanyl
Actiq (PDF - 251KB), oral transmucosal lozenge *	Fentanyl Citrate
Avinza (PDF - 51KB), capsules (extended release)	Morphine Sulfate
Buprenorphine Hydrochloride, tablets (sublingual) *	Buprenorphine Hydrochloride
Buprenorphine Hydrochloride; Naloxone Hydrochloride, tablets (sublingual) *	Buprenorphine Hydrochloride; Naloxone Hydrochloride
Butrans (PDF - 388KB), transdermal patch system	Buprenorphine
Daytrana (PDF - 281KB), transdermal patch system	Methylphenidate
Demerol, tablets *	Meperidine Hydrochloride
Demerol, oral solution *	Meperidine Hydrochloride
Diastat/Diastat AcuDial, rectal gel	Diazepam
Dilaudid, tablets *	Hydromorphone Hydrochloride
Dilaudid, oral liquid *	Hydromorphone Hydrochloride
Dolophine Hydrochloride (PDF - 48KB), tablets *	Methadone Hydrochloride
Duragesic (PDF - 179KB), patch (extended release) *	Fentanyl
Embeda (PDF - 39KB), capsules (extended release)	Morphine Sulfate; Naltrexone Hydrochloride
Exalgo (PDF - 83KB), tablets (extended release)	Hydromorphone Hydrochloride
Fentora (PDF - 338KB), tablets (buccal)	Fentanyl Citrate
Kadian (PDF - 135KB), capsules (extended release)	Morphine Sulfate
Methadone Hydrochloride, oral solution *	Methadone Hydrochloride
Methadose, tablets *	Methadone Hydrochloride
Morphine Sulfate, tablets (immediate release) *	Morphine Sulfate
Morphine Sulfate (PDF - 282KB), oral solution *	Morphine Sulfate
MS Contin (PDF - 433KB), tablets (extended release) *	Morphine Sulfate
Nucynta ER (PDF - 38KB), tablets (extended release)	Tapentadol
Onsolis (PDF - 297KB), soluble film (buccal)	Fentanyl Citrate
Opana, tablets (immediate release)	Oxymorphone Hydrochloride
Opana ER (PDF - 56KB), tablets (extended release)	Oxymorphone Hydrochloride
Oxecta, tablets (immediate release)	Oxycodone Hydrochloride
Oxycodone Hydrochloride, capsules	Oxycodone Hydrochloride
Oxycodone Hydrochloride (PDF - 100KB), oral solution	Oxycodone Hydrochloride
Oxycontin (PDF - 417KB), tablets (extended release)	Oxycodone Hydrochloride
Percocet, tablets *	Acetaminophen; Oxycodone Hydrochloride
Percodan, tablets *	Aspirin; Oxycodone Hydrochloride
Suboxone (PDF - 83KB), film (sublingual)	Buprenorphine Hydrochloride; Naloxone Hydrochloride
Xyrem (PDF - 185KB), oral solution	Sodium Oxybate
Zubsolv (PDF - 354KB), tablets (sublingual)	Buprenorphine Hydrochloride; Naloxone Hydrochloride

*These medicines have generic versions available or are only available in generic formulations.

If you have additional questions about disposing of your medicine, please contact the FDA at 1-888-INFO-FDA (1-888-463-6332)