

# no drugs down the drain

## ... so where should they go?

Please do not flush leftover or expired medications down the toilet or sink. Many prescription and over-the-counter drugs contain chemicals that are not completely removed during wastewater treatment. Traces of these substances will end up in the San Francisco Bay where they could harm fish and other aquatic life.

On the other hand, letting expired drugs pile up in the medicine cabinet or putting them in the trash can lead to accidental poisoning or encourage drug abuse. Our community offers many better, safer disposal options that protect you, your family, and our waterways.

### Facts About Safe Drug Disposal

- Police must oversee disposal of controlled medications, due to the great potential for abuse or addiction. For a list of controlled drugs, visit [www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/scheduling.html](http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/scheduling.html).
- It is illegal in California to put needles, syringes, or epipens (“sharps”) in trash or recycling containers. This protects workers who handle the waste. Sharps also must be transported to a collection center in an approved sharps container, which are sold at pharmacies and online.

Local Safe Disposal Options	Who can use?*	Accepts non-controlled drugs	Accepts controlled drugs	Accepts sharps
Community take-back events hosted by police departments, check police or city websites	Anyone	Yes	Yes	Varies
<b>Custom Care Pharmacies</b> 124 Marketplace, San Ramon, (925) 830-0555 4271 First St., Pleasanton, (925) 846-4455	Anyone	Yes	No	No
<b>Household Hazardous Waste Facility</b> 5584 La Ribera Street, Livermore <a href="http://www.StopWaste.org">www.StopWaste.org</a>	Alameda County residents	Yes	No	Yes, in approved containers
<b>Dougherty Police Substation</b> 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon	Contra Costa County residents	Yes	Yes	No
<b>San Ramon Fire District</b> 1500 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon <a href="http://www.wastediversion.org">www.wastediversion.org</a> , (925) 906-1801	Contra Costa County residents	No	No	Yes, in approved containers
Pre-paid envelopes sold at many pharmacies	Anyone (cost)	Yes	No	No
Drug company sharps take-back programs: ask your doctor, see product packaging or website	Patients taking specific drugs	No	No	Yes, some offer free containers
Sharps mail-back programs: <a href="http://www.Stericycle.com">www.Stericycle.com</a> <a href="http://www.SharpsInc.com">www.SharpsInc.com</a> <a href="http://www.BiomedicalWasteSolutions.com">www.BiomedicalWasteSolutions.com</a> <a href="http://www.WasteMD.com">www.WasteMD.com</a>	Anyone (cost)	No	No	Yes



\* For home-generated medical waste only. State law requires businesses to use a licensed medical waste hauler.