



MEDICAL WASTE — UNWANTED MEDICATIONS

Improper disposal of medications can result in serious harm to humans, animals, and the environment.

UNWANTED CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ARE ACCEPTED FREE OF CHARGE AT:

Battle Ground Police Department

507 S.W. 1st Street
(360) 342-5100
Monday - Friday, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Camas Police Department

2100 N.E. 3rd Avenue
(360) 834-4151
Monday - Friday, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

La Center Police Department

214 E. 4th Street
(360) 263-2745
Monday - Friday, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Ridgefield Police Department

116 North Main
(360) 887-3556
Monday - Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Sheriff's Office - Central Precinct

11608 N.E. 149th Street
(360) 397-6195
Monday - Friday, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Sheriff's Office - Headquarters

707 W. 13th Street
(360) 397-2211
Monday - Friday, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Sheriff's Office - West Precinct

505 N.W. 179th Street
(360) 397-6079
Monday - Friday, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Washougal Police Department

1320 "A" Street
(360) 835-8701
Monday - Friday, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

UNWANTED NON-CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ARE ACCEPTED FREE OF CHARGE AT:

Central Transfer and Recycling Center

11034 N.E. 117th Avenue; Vancouver
(360) 256-8482
Saturday & Sunday 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Philip Services Corporation

625 S. 32nd; Washougal
(360) 835-8594
First Tuesday, 10:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

West Van Materials Recovery Center

6601 N.W. Old Lower River Road; Vancouver
(360) 737-1727
Friday & Saturday, 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Mobile collection events

Call Clark County Public Works
(360) 397-6118 ext. 4352 for more information

For more information about unwanted medical waste and other household hazardous wastes, please call (360) 397-6118 ext. 4352 or visit www.clark.wa.gov and click on Solid Waste and Recycling.



For other formats

Clark County ADA Office, Voice (360) 397-2000
Relay (800) 833-6384, E-mail ADA@clark.wa.gov



SAFE DISPOSAL



WHAT ARE UNWANTED MEDICATIONS?

Unwanted medications are medications that are outdated or no longer needed. People often inherit prescriptions or over-the-counter drugs when a relative or friend has passed away.

WHY IS IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF UNWANTED MEDICATIONS DANGEROUS?

Proper drug disposal is an emerging issue in environmental protection. All medications applied or ingested may be excreted or washed into sewage systems and discharged to the environment. The risks posed to humans by long-term consumption of minute quantities of medications in drinking water, as well as the risks to the environment by continual exposure are unknown. Flushing unwanted medications down the toilet or throwing them in the garbage just adds to the problem.

MEDICATIONS IN OUR WASTEWATER

In 2002 the United States Geological Survey (USGS) published the results of a two-year study that included nationwide sampling and analysis of streams for wastewater contaminants including prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, and hormones. The study results indicated that many wastewater contaminants were present at detectable quantities in rivers across the nation. While the concentrations detected in the study were low, and rarely exceeded drinking water guidelines or aquatic life criteria, the USGS pointed out that standards haven't been set for many compounds because we don't yet know enough about them or their effect on human or environmental health.

WHAT ARE CONTROLLED AND NON-CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES?

Unwanted medications can include **CONTROLLED** and **NON-CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**.

- **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** are drugs or chemicals whose manufacture, possession and use are regulated by the Controlled Substances Act which is enforced by the Drug Enforcement Administration. **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** may include illegal drugs or prescription medications such as pain killers and tranquilizers.
- **NON-CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** include over-the-counter drugs as well as prescription medications that are not regulated by the Controlled Substances Act.
- To determine if you have a **CONTROLLED** or **NON-CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE**, ask your doctor or pharmacist or call the National Poison Hotline at 1-800-222-1222.



HOW CAN I DISPOSE OF UNWANTED MEDICATIONS SAFELY?

Unwanted Non-Controlled Substances:

- Return to participating pharmacies (go to <http://www.clark.wa.gov/recycle/index.html> and click on [Participating Pharmacy Disposal List](#)). You may also contact Clark County Solid Waste at (360) 397-6117 ext. 4352 to ask about a specific pharmacy or have a copy of the list mailed to you.
- Take to a household hazardous waste collection facility or collection event.
- Ask your physician if he/she will take them back for safe disposal.

Unwanted Controlled Substances:

- Take to participating Sheriff or Police Departments.

PRIOR TO TRANSPORTING YOUR UNWANTED MEDICATIONS, BE SURE THAT:

- they are in the original container with the medication's name visible.
- they are in a sealed non-leaking container.
- all patient information has been removed or obscured.

For disposal locations and information, please see back of brochure.