



ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS SOLID WASTE DIVISION

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GUIDELINES

RESIDENTIAL MEDICATIONS & SHARPS DISPOSAL, 2010

The following guidelines apply to **residential** wastes only. Pharmacies, veterinary clinics and other health care providers can visit www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/pharmaceuticals/index/html or call 425-649-7000 for assistance. Please remember that it is not appropriate for health care professionals to dispose of unwanted medications down any drain!

Disposal of Medications

- 1. Do not dispose of medications down any sink, toilet or drain** to prevent pollution of the Puget Sound, surface or ground waters.
- 2. Remove medications from packaging** and combine if more than one variety. This disassociates the medication from patient or ingredient information. **Liquid medications** can be absorbed into wadded newspaper, kitty litter, dry medications or other absorbent media prior to disposal in the trash.
- 3. Obliterate medications** by wetting or grinding and adding kitty litter, soil, coffee grounds or other unpalatable substance to deter opportunistic scavenging. This further renders medications as unidentifiable.
- 4. Place the unidentifiable medications in the regular trash** separately from any identifying containers.
- 5. Recycle clean plastic and glass medication bottles** with other household recyclables. Please remove caps.

Disposal of Hypodermic Needles (Sharps)

- 1. Place used needles in** either a red colored "sharps" container (available at pharmacies,) or in a PETE plastic bottle (e.g. a 2-liter soda bottle). When full, **securely tape the lid.**
- 2. Dispose full container** with secured lid with your **regular trash.**

Questions about disposal or recycling of these or other wastes? Please call 360-321-5111 ext. 7386, 360-679-7386, or 321-5111 ext. 7386.