

MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Your unwanted medications may be disposed of in your trash. Follow these recommended precautions by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), to prevent accidental or intentional ingestion:

1. Keep the medication in its original container:

Most labels contain safety information and caps are typically childproof. Leaving the content information clearly visible, scratch the patient's name off or cover it with permanent marker.



2. Modify the medications to discourage consumption.

- For solid medications, such as pills or capsules: add a small amount of water to at least partially dissolve them.
- For liquid medications: add enough table salt, flour, charcoal, or nontoxic powdered spice, such as turmeric or mustard to make a pungent, unsightly mixture that discourages anyone from eating it.
- For blister packs: wrap the blister packages containing pills in multiple layers of duct or other opaque tape.



3. Seal, conceal and discard in your garbage can.

Tape the medication container lid shut with packing or duct tape and place it inside a non-transparent bag or container such as an empty yogurt or margarine tub to ensure that the contents cannot be seen. Discard in your garbage can.



MANAGING OTHER TYPES OF PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

- **Prescription bottles that are empty** should be disposed of in the garbage. They are not recyclable.
- **Soiled bandages, disposable sheets and used latex medical gloves** should be placed in a plastic garbage bag, tied closed and put in the garbage for disposal at a solid waste transfer station or with your solid waste hauler.
- **Chemotherapy drugs** may require special handling. Work with your healthcare provider on proper disposal options for this type of medication.
- **Oxygen and IV tubing** should be wrapped and disposed of in the garbage.
- **Unused ampoules, vials, and IV bags** should not be opened (other than to scratch out the patient's name). Wrap the container with tape to minimize breakage, then place in an opaque plastic container (such as an empty yogurt or margarine tub). Wrap the outside of the container or bag with additional duct or shipping tape to prevent leakage and further obscure the contents. Dispose of the container in the trash.

SHARPS DISPOSAL

To dispose of your syringes/sharps properly you may do one of the following options:

♦ Place them in a puncture resistant container such as a 2-liter pop bottle or liquid laundry detergent bottle. Make sure the cap is tightly secured; label the container, "HOME SHARPS". If possible, hand the container to your garbage hauler directly. If this is not possible, the container may be placed in your household trash.

♦ Purchase a red home sharps disposal container at your local pharmacy. When the container is full, it can be disposed of in your garbage at a solid waste transfer station or with your solid waste hauler.



♦ Home sharps, in a puncture resistant container may also be disposed of at a number of locations within Otter Tail County. Please see the Home Sharps Disposal Options list in this brochure.



HOME SHARPS DISPOSAL OPTIONS

The following locations MAY be able to take your household sharps for disposal. Please call them prior to dropping off sharps to discuss their policies & ask about potential fees.

Henning Medical Clinic

401 Douglas Ave.
Henning, MN
1-218-583-2953

Fee Involved - Phone for more information

Village Apothecary

117 Lake Ave. N.
Battle Lake, MN
1-218-864-5261

Accepted from patients only.

*For more information, call the
Otter Tail County Solid Waste
Department
or visit our website at:
www.co.ottertail.mn.us/solidwaste*

PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

Disposing of Unwanted Medications & Sharps



1115 N. Tower Rd.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Phone: 218-736-2161
Fax: 218-998-4899