
Summary of Pharmaceutical Take Back:

- Medication should NEVER be discarded down the drain.
- Unused, expired and unwanted medication is a health and safety risk, as well as a potential threat to waterways.
- Pharmacies participating in the Illinois EPA pilot program may accept most medications.
- Some police departments also offer medication take-back of all types of medication.
- Due to new DEA regulations released in the Fall of 2014 some pharmacies have discontinued accepting medications but others are considering becoming collection sites. Please check back.

Will County partners for Pharmaceuticals:

- Illinois EPA
- Basinger's Pharmacy
- Bolingbrook Pharmacy
- Crest Hill Police Department
- Elwood Police Department
- J. D. Brown Pharmacy
- Joliet Police Department
- Lemont Police Department
- Lockport Police Department
- Mokena Police Department
- New Lenox Police Department
- Peotone Police Department
- Remco Medical
- Shorewood Police Department



Will County Medication Take Back Program

This program protects Will County water resources, while reducing the materials going to local landfills. Each year thousands of tons of pharmaceuticals and personal care products enter the waste stream. Several United States Geological Survey studies over the past 7 years have found that many pharmaceuticals are surviving water treatment facilities and making their way into drinking water. The very medications that help people may be a concern to aquatic life.

The EPA has asked everyone to cease "flushing" unwanted medications down the drain. The federal government is encouraging people to locate pharmaceutical take-back programs for disposal of unwanted medications.

Will County, in cooperation with the Illinois EPA and local pharmacies, began the area's first permanent Medication Take-Back Program in 2007. This is a pilot program, that if successful, may be expanded.

Will County shall continue to offer One-Day Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events which have always accepted medications. Please share this information with friends, neighbors and family members to protect our fishing, recreational and drinking water resources.

Drop-Off Instructions

- Bring only residentially generated medication items. No medications from businesses or doctor's offices can be taken.
- Use a permanent marker to black out your name or personal information on the label.
- Take medications to pharmacy or collection site during drop-off operation hours ONLY.
- Please follow directions at the drop-off site. Only give medications to the pharmacy or drop-off site personnel.
- This is not a share or reuse opportunity. All medications received will be destroyed in the most environmentally sound manner possible.

Items Accepted (Expired or Unwanted)

Prescription Medications
Over-the-Counter Medications
Medicated Ointments
Medicated Shampoos
Liquids Containing Medications
Prescription Inhalers
Over-the-Counter Inhalers
Glass Thermometers (contain mercury)
Medical devices containing mercury
(blood pressure units, barometers, etc.)

Items NOT Accepted

DEA Controlled Substances*:
Narcotic Medications
Illegal Drugs
Bio-Hazardous Materials
Sharps / Needles (see bottom of page)
Radioactive Materials
Other Household Wastes

*The Federal Drug Enforcement Agency defines DEA Controlled Substances under the 1970 Controlled Substances Act. They are medications categorized by "schedules" based on their potential for abuse or addition. The schedules cover opiates, hallucinogens and prescriptions containing narcotics or amphetamines.

What to do with medications that are not accepted?

Will County, in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, will host special collection events that include DEA controlled substances from time-to-time. Some law enforcement agencies accept DEA controlled substances. Please contact your local police department to learn if they offer this valuable home safety service.

Protect Personal Information when disposing prescriptions

The label of a prescription bottle shows personal data, such as your name, your doctor's name, the type of medication, the number of refills allowed and the date of the current refill. In the wrong hands, this data could be harmful to you or a drug abuser. Therefore it is always important for you to black out your personal data on the label with a permanent black marker before disposing of the product in any manner.

Accidental Misuse

If you accidentally repeat a dosage, take an expired medication or otherwise misuse your medication, call the **Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222**.

Pharmaceutical Drop-Off Locations:

Bolingbrook Pharmacy 402 W. Boughton Road 630-759-8900 Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-6pm Saturday 9am-2pm	Crest Hill Police Department 1610 Plainfield Road (Rt.30) 815-741-5111 Hours: 24/7 inside entrance	Elwood Police Department 401 Mississippi Avenue 815-423-5411 Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm	Joliet-Basinger's City Center Pharmacy 300 N. Ottawa 815-722-3200 Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-5pm Saturday 9:30am-11am
Joliet-Basinger's Marycrest Pharmacy 2130 W. Jefferson 815-725-1102 Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-9pm Sat-Sun 8:30am-9pm	Joliet-Basinger's Madison Pharmacy 330 Madison St, Suite 102 815-725-1102 Hours: Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 9am-5pm Wednesday 9am-1pm	Joliet-Police Department 150 W. Washington Street 815-724-3100 Hours: Drop-Box 24/7	Joliet-Police Department (West Side) 7196 Caton Farm Road 815-724-3100 Hours: Drop-Box 27/7

Joliet-J. D. Brown Pharmacy 837 Plainfield Road (Rt 30) 815-723-0611 Hours: Mon,Tue,Thu,Fri 9am-5:30pm Saturday 9am-3pm	Joliet - Remco Medical 692 Theodore Street 815-723-0611 Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am-6pm Saturday 8:30am-1pm	Lemont Police Department 14600 127th Street 630-257-2229 x2478 Hours: Drop-Box 24/7	Lockport Police Department 1212 Farrell Road 815-838-2132 Hours: Drop-Box 24/7
Mokena Police Department 10907 Front Street 708-479-3912 Hours: Drop-Box 24/7	Naperville-Regional IEPA HHW Facility 180 Fort Hill Drive "Please, No Direct Calls" Hours: Saturday-Sunday 9am-2pm (excluding holidays)	New Lenox Police Department 200 Veterans Parkway 815-462-6100 Hours: 24/7 Monday-Friday 8am-5pm (excluding holidays)	Peotone Police Department 208 E. Main Street 708-258-3003 Hours: Drop-Box 24/7
Shorewood Police Department 903 W. Jefferson Street 815-725-1460 Hours: Drop-Box 24/7			
			These locations are also listed on the Green Guide Database ; locations throughout Illinois are available on the IL EPA website !

What to do with needles/sharps that are not accepted:

Needles, or sharps as they are also called, that are used in the home for self-injection (such as insulin shots) are currently permissible to discard with regular garbage using a rigid container (such as a milk jug, coffee container or laundry bottle) sealed with duct tape.

Residents may also use a bio-hazard container and pay for bio-hazard disposal service through several companies. Occasionally a doctor's office, hospital or other medical provider will offer disposal service to their clients.

Sharps generated by hospitals, medical offices, traveling nursing services, etc. are required to be disposed as bio-waste through a commercial bio-hazard disposal service.

The [Medication Take-Back Brochure](#) may be printed on 8.5" X 14" sheet.