

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- According to Denis Yost, Pharmacy Director at Kootenai Health, saving unused prescription drugs is a bad idea. “Certain drugs tend to degrade and some even become toxic over time. Others are heat sensitive or have active ingredients which can settle, meaning you can’t be sure of the proper dosing. When you have finished your course of treatment with a prescription, dispose of it.”
- Cynthia Taggart from the Panhandle Health District (PHD) advises preventing misuse of discarded drugs by removing them from their original containers and mixing or crushing them with an unappetizing substance, such as kitty litter. Seal the results in a bag or jar and toss it out with the household trash.
- Sid Fredrickson from the City Wastewater treatment plant stated: “There is growing concern that personal care products and pharmaceuticals can pass through a wastewater treatment plant and end up poisoning aquatic life in our rivers and streams. We ask our citizens not to flush these products down the drain.”
- Mayor Clay Larkin from the City of Post Falls stated: “Our Community is very grateful to be part of this important program of collecting old unused, unwanted or outdated drugs, to keep them away from our youth, and get them out of the Spokane river. Hats Off to our partners.”

CONTACT LOCAL AGENCIES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



COEUR D' ALENE POLICE DEPARTMENT
3818 Schreiber Way
Phone: 208-769-2320
www.cdaid.org



POST FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT
1717 E. Polston Ave.
Phone: 208-773-3517
www.postfallspolice.com



RATHDRUM POLICE DEPARTMENT
8187 W. Main St.
208-687-0711
www.rathdrum.org



KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
5500 N. Government Way
208-446-1300
www.kcsheriff.com



IDAHO STATE POLICE
602 W. Prairie Ave.
208-772-6055
www.isp.state.id.us

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
2110 Ironwood Parkway
208-769-1422
www.deq.state.id.us

KOOTENAI COUNTY

MEDICATION TURN IN PROGRAM



Prevent Pollution • Dispose Medicines Safely

“Tons of drugs dumped into wastewater affect wildlife, humans on unknown scale”

Associated Press

MEDICATION TURN IN PROGRAM

If you have prescription drugs that are outdated, no longer needed, or you want to dispose of them properly, please contact your local law enforcement agency.

Each area agency is available to assist in the proper disposal of such items.

There are many risks associated with storing prescription drugs that are not part of a current drug therapy. The prescriptions may be outdated and therefore will not effectively treat the symptoms they are intended for.

Prescription drugs that are stored and not currently being taken by the person they are subscribed to, can be taken by mistake or stolen.

If prescription drugs are disposed of in our water supply, a potential for contamination to the water occurs.

Law Enforcement wants to work with you to dispose of these items in a safe manner. We appreciate any cooperation you can give in accommodating this process.



WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DISPOSING UNUSED MEDICINES?



Pharmacists, law enforcement agencies and municipal waste organizations are currently taking the most responsibility for properly disposing of unused drugs.

An investigation by The Associated Press found that drinking water supplied to at least 46 million Americans carried residues of antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers, sex hormones and other pharmaceuticals.

We are available Monday-Friday during business hours to assist in the proper disposal of medications.

Please contact your local agency listed on the back of this pamphlet.



WHAT CAN I DO?

CONSUMERS

- Dispose of unused or unwanted medications at take-back sites.
- Do NOT dispose of any medication down the toilet or in the trash.
- Purchase drugs in small amounts, limiting expired Medications.
- Ask for medications with low environmental impact.
- Encourage your health provider to take back unused and expired drugs.
- Commit to health and wellness strategies to reduce your reliance on medications.

PHARMACISTS AND PROVIDERS

- Do not prescribe more medication than can be used.
- Prescribe starter packs and refill packs.
- Review and regularly assess the patient's total consumption of medication.
- Learn which drugs have the highest eco-toxicity.
- Consider environmental impact when prescribing Medications
- Educate patients, consumers, and colleagues about the importance of proper disposal of pharmaceutical waste.

