

To My Patients

NO DRUGS DOWN THE DRAIN

It's As Easy As 1, 2, 3

What are pharmaceuticals?

Pharmaceuticals are prescribed or over-the-counter drugs and medications used for medical treatment of people and animals.



To dispose of drugs:

1. Take capsules and tablets and make unusable by wetting, breaking or crushing them; then place them in a childproof container, sealed with tape and toss in the trash. Be sure to take off any personal information.
2. Mix prescription drugs with an undesirable substance such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter and put them in non-descript containers such as empty cans or sealable bags.
3. Empty liquids onto absorbent paper towels or rags and dispose with regular trash.

Previously, people have been instructed to flush medication down the toilet to prevent harm to children and animals. Flushing is no longer the recommended disposal method; it can have adverse effects on our environment.

Disposing of Syringes - What container do I need to put my used syringes in and where do I take them when the container is full?

On September 1, 2008, a new law becomes effective which prohibits the disposal of home-generated sharps waste in any container used for the collection of solid waste.



Refuse haulers will not accept your sharps/needles. You will need to take them to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event (HHW). The County of Riverside will take them for free and will give you an approved collection container (also free) to use for future sharps.

This program is designed to protect everyone from accidental sticks from needles throughout the whole waste transportation & handling process. Needles should never be put in the TRASH!!! For a schedule of Collection Events, call (951) 486-3200 or go to: http://www.rivcowm.org/hhw/hhw_schedule.html

Until you can bring them to a Waste Collection Event, you should put them in a hard sided container with a secure lid, like an empty bleach or laundry detergent bottle, coffee can, etc. Then you need to put a label on the container that says "Sharps/Needles." Before transporting, secure the container one more time with tape. Place the container in the vehicle with you and when you arrive at the HHW event, the inspector will have you drop the whole container in a barrel. He will give you a new approved container and you will then use it until it is full. You may also purchase a needle clipping and storage device at most pharmacies for around \$4.00.



**Provided as a public service by the Riverside County Medical Association
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