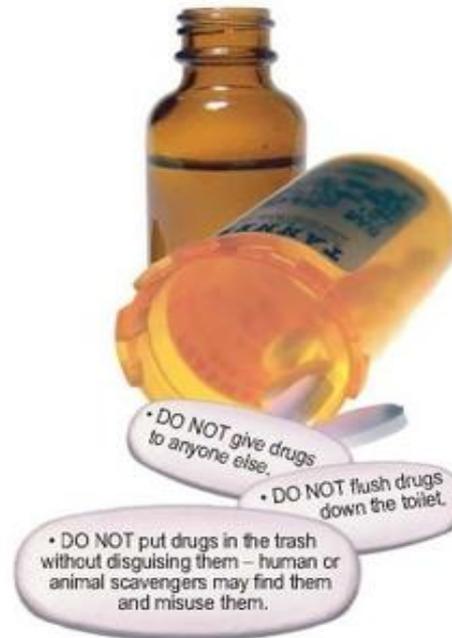


# THE DISPOSAL OF MEDICATION IN NON-CERTIFIED SITES



**“There is new awareness about the potential harmful effects of medication on fish and other aquatic life.”**



A portion of prescription and over-the-counter medications will not be used and if flushed or poured down the drain, can end up in our rivers and streams.

# **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)**

## **Recommendations for Medication Disposal**

- **DEC recommends NO drugs be flushed.**



**Flushing is no longer the preferred way to dispose of unwanted drugs. Disguise and put in the trash instead.**

- **DEC encourages all non-certified sites to take unused or unwanted prescription and OTC drugs to a pharmaceutical collection.**

**(check with your Town, County, City or local pharmacy about any upcoming collections).**



- **If there is no event or permanent collection site available, follow these steps to safely dispose of drugs in your household trash:**
  - **Treat medications (liquids and pills) by adding water and then salt, ashes, dirt, cat litter, coffee grounds, or another undesirable substance, to avoid accidental or intentional misuse of drugs. Do not conceal discarded drugs in food to prevent consumption by scavenging humans, pets or wildlife.**
  - **Hide all medications in an outer container, such as a sealable bag, box or plastic tub to prevent discovery and removal from the trash. Seal the container with strong tape.**
  - **Dispose of drugs as close to your trash collection day as possible to avoid misuse and/or misdirection.**

**Note: Be careful in handling medications. Some drugs can cause harm if handled by people other than those to whom they were prescribed. Also, avoid crushing pills as some medications can be harmful in powder form.**





NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
NYS Education Department



## IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Help Protect New York's Waters

***Don't Flush*** Unwanted Household  
Medications or Pour Them Down the Drain

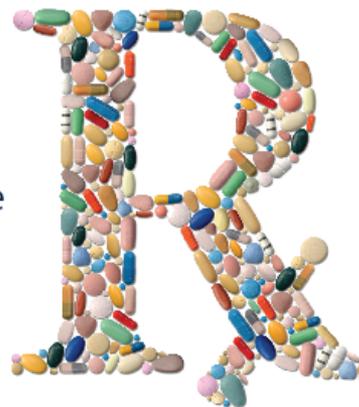
**Return** to collection  
events where available

or

**Mix** with something  
undesirable such as coffee  
grounds, cat litter or dirt

**Tape** up containers

**Toss** in your garbage



For full instructions or designated collection events visit:

[www.dontflushyourdrugs.net](http://www.dontflushyourdrugs.net)



Office for People With  
Developmental Disabilities

# Needles, Syringes, Lancets

## “Sharps”

- All Needles and syringes are to be placed in a puncture resistant containers immediately after use.
- A puncture resistant container is a sturdy, leak resistant, and puncture proof empty detergent bottle or bottle made of rigid plastic. Mark it to say ‘contains sharps’ ‘do not recycle’, cap it and tape the cap as an extra precaution.
- Never use glass bottles, soda bottles, milk jugs or coffee cans to store and dispose of sharps.
- When 2/3 full the sealed container should be disposed of in a manner allowable by community ordinances

FAQs About Proper Disposal of Drugs:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/45189.html>

Household Drug Collection Schedule in NYS:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/63826.html>

For a link to the “Don’t Flush Your Drugs” Poster:

[http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration\\_pdf/dontflushposter.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/dontflushposter.pdf)

For more information on Sharps disposal:

[http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/prevention/needles\\_syringes/sharps/](http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/prevention/needles_syringes/sharps/)

