

# HOW TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF UNUSED MEDICATIONS



PENNSYLVANIA  
AMERICAN WATER

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy recommends the following tips for proper disposal of medications:

- Don't flush prescription drugs down the toilet or drain unless the label or accompanying patient information specifically instructs you to do so.
- Take advantage of community pharmaceutical take-back programs that allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal. Call your municipal or county government's office and ask if a drug take-back program is available in your community.
- If a drug take-back or collection program is not available:
  1. Take unused, unneeded or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers.
  2. Mix prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter.
  3. Put the mixture in disposable, non-descript container with a lid, such as an empty milk carton, margarine tub or sealable bag.
  4. Conceal or remove any personal information from the original prescription drug container, including Rx number, by covering it with black permanent marker or duct tape, or by scratching it off.
  5. Place the sealed container with the mixture, and the empty drug containers, in the trash.

## For more information

Visit these websites for additional tips and information on pharmaceuticals and drinking water:

- [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org)
- [www.epa.gov/ppcp/faq.html](http://www.epa.gov/ppcp/faq.html)
- [toxics.usgs.gov/regional/emc](http://toxics.usgs.gov/regional/emc)
- [http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/prescrptn\\_drgs/index.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/prescrptn_drgs/index.html)

**WE CARE ABOUT WATER. IT'S WHAT WE DO.**

# 2009 BERKS COUNTY PHARMACEUTICAL COLLECTION

**WHEN** Saturday, October 24, 2009, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**WHERE** Spring Township GIANT Food Store  
2641 Shillington Rd., Reading, PA 19608  
Exeter Township GIANT Food Store  
4655 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, PA 19606

## WHAT TO BRING

Unwanted and expired medications, both prescription and over-the-counter, in tablet, liquid, ointment, inhaler, powder or patch form.

## HOW TO PREPARE YOUR MEDICATIONS

Keep medications in their original containers. Do not remove the labels. Personal information (i.e. names, addresses) should be crossed out, but information about the medication should be legible.

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE DROP-OFF

Take your unwanted and expired medications directly to the pharmacist. Law enforcement officers, among others, will be working at the event, because, by law, only they can take possession of certain types of medications. You may leave after handing your medications to the pharmacist.

## A FEW OTHER NOTES

- All medications will be destroyed by incineration.
- There will be no refunds given for unwanted medications. Medications collected at the event will NOT be resold or used.
- There is no charge to participate.
- The program is only available to homeowners. No businesses can participate.
- DO NOT bring sharps, syringes, needles, thermometers, bandages, gauze pads, sun block, lipstick, deodorant, skin cream and similar products. THESE MATERIALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Please contact the Berks County Solid Waste Authority at (610) 478-6362 if you have any questions regarding the acceptance of certain items.

## PROGRAM SPONSORS

- Berks County Solid Waste Authority
- Pennsylvania American Water
- Berks County District Attorney and GIANT Food Stores