

Don't Flush Your Medications!



Flushing medications down the toilet is the least desirable of all disposal alternatives. Scientific studies show the chemicals in many medications can harm aquatic life. Wastewater treatment facilities are not equipped to remove all traces of pharmaceutical chemicals. If you flush your medications, a portion of those contaminants may reach local waters.

If you are unable to take your medications to one of the medication drop-off locations, **AS A LAST RESORT** you may put them in the trash. The turn-in programs are by far the best practice, but disposing of the prescriptions in the garbage is a better alternative than flushing down the toilet. Here are a few tips if you choose to dispose of the medications in this way:

- Take them out of their original containers
- Put them in a sealable container (plastic bag or coffee can)
- Mix in a little water and an undesirable substance (such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter)
- Seal the container; put it in the trash
- Black out personal information from labels before putting medication containers in the trash separately



Kootenai County Solid Waste
Administration Office
3650 N. Ramsey Road
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
Tel: 208-446-1430
Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
<http://www.kcgov.us/departments/solidwaste/>

HOW TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF UNWANTED MEDICATIONS



- **Keep pollutants out of our water**
- **Prevent accidental poisonings**
- **Reduce drug abuse**

Have You Checked Your Medicine Cabinet Lately?



If you're like most people, you have accumulated quite a collection of prescription and over-the-counter medications—many of which are no longer needed or have expired. Disposing of medications properly will help protect your family, your community, and your environment.

- Many children and the elderly are victims of accidental poisonings due to medications in the home.
- More teens abuse prescription and over-the-counter drugs than any illicit drug, except marijuana.
- Recent studies have found traces of medications in 40+ million American's drinking water.

Research has linked pharmaceutical pollutants to reproductive defects in fish, resistance to antibiotics, and the development of drug-resistant germs.

How to Safely Dispose of Unwanted Medications

Law enforcement agencies, water departments and municipal waste organizations are currently taking the most responsibility for the proper disposal of unused medications. In Kootenai County, the majority of our local law enforcement agencies participate in a medication turn-in program. Green MedReturn Boxes, that resemble post office boxes, are located inside the lobbies of our local police offices. The local agencies that currently participate are:

Coeur d'Alene Police Dept.
3818 Schreiber Way
Tel: 208-769-2320
www.cdaid.org
Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
No Liquid Medications

Post Falls Police Dept.
1717 E. Polston Avenue
Tel: 208-773-3517
www.postfallspolice.com
Hours: Monday-Friday
8am-5pm

The boxes do **NOT** take sharps. Please drop off used needles in a secured container at either Solid Waste Transfer Station 7 days a week.



Rathdrum Police Dept.
8178 W. Main Street
Tel: 208-687-0711
www.rathdrum.org
Hours: 24 hours a day/7 days a week

Kootenai County Sheriff Dept.
5500 N. Government Way
Tel: 208-446-1300
www.kcsheriff.com
Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4pm
No Liquid Medications

So what do I do with the liquids if they can't take them?

If you can't dispose of the liquids at your preferred law enforcement agency, you are welcome to bring your household small quantities of liquid medications to either of the Kootenai County Solid Waste Transfer Stations.

Ramsey Transfer Station
3650 N. Ramsey Rd.
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
Hours: Monday-Sunday 8am-4:55 pm.

Prairie Transfer Station
15580 W. Prairie Avenue
Post Falls, Idaho 83854
Hours: Monday-Sunday 8am-4:55 pm.

For questions, please call:
Tel: 208-446-1430
Or check out our website:
<http://www.kcgov.us/departments/solidwaste/>