



ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, SOLID WASTE DIVISION

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GUIDELINES RESIDENTIAL MEDICATIONS DISPOSAL 2019

The following guidelines apply to **RESIDENTIAL** wastes only.

Store medications in a locked medicine cabinet to prevent theft, abuse or accidental poisoning. Even non-prescription medications can be a danger to children and pets. It is important to dispose of outdated or unwanted medications properly to prevent accidental use, overdose or abuse by others who may have access to them.

Island County is designated a 'single-source aquifer' since most Island County residents get their drinking water from wells (ground water) and most homes are on septic systems. To protect our source of ground water, Whidbey Island residents are asked to not dispose of medications down any sink, toilet or drain to prevent pollution of the Puget Sound, surface or ground waters.

Non-prescription/Over-the-counter medications:

- Remove medication from original container and place into a sealable plastic bag or other container with a sealable lid.
- If the medication is solid (tablet, capsule, suppository, etc) mix with water or soda to at least partially dissolve. Do not crush! Crushing can expose you to dangerous levels of the medication.
- With this mixture, or if you have a liquid drug, add kitty litter, sawdust, coffee grounds, etc. to help absorb the fluid and make it less appealing to children and pets.
- Seal the plastic bag or container with packing or duct tape and put it in the trash.

Prescription medications:

- Contact area pharmacies about disposal or drug take back availability;
- Island County Sheriff's Department South Precinct at 5521 E. Harbor Rd. in Freeland has a medication drop box. They accept prescription medications (in pill form) Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- The City of Oak Harbor Police Department accepts prescription medications (in pill form only) for disposal year round. Call (360) 279-9567 for more information.
- Contact the Island County Sheriff for the next DEA sponsored prescription drug collection event. (360) 679-7310, (360) 321-5111 x7310, or (360) 629-4505 x7310;
- **Note:** Pharmacies and law enforcement officials are the only people authorized to accept unused, controlled substances. Hospitals and physician offices cannot legally accept unwanted medication.

Mercury Thermometers: Free disposal, secure to prevent breakage, deliver to any County Solid Waste facility HHW program.

Thank-you for properly disposing of sharps and unwanted medications