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Medicines play an important role in treating many conditions and diseases, but when they are no longer needed it's important to dispose of them properly to avoid harm to others. Below, we list some disposal options and special disposal instructions for you to consider when throwing out expired, unwanted, or unused medicines.

Medicine drop boxes

Prescription and over-the-counter drugs may be disposed of at the Garrett County Sheriff's Department or the Maryland State Police Barracks in McHenry. Drop Boxes are located in the lobbies and are a secure and safe place to dispose of unwanted medications at any time.

Household Disposal

1. Take your medication out of the original container.
2. Mix the drugs with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter or used coffee grounds.
3. Put the mixture in a disposable container with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub, or into a sealable bag. Add water and mix. Seal the container.
4. The sealed container with the drug mixture may then be placed in the trash.



Flushing of Certain Medicines

There are a small number of medicines that may be especially harmful, and in some cases, fatal with just one dose if it is used by someone other than the person for whom they were prescribed. To prevent accidental ingestion by children, pets, or anyone else, a few medicines have specific disposal instructions indicating they should be flushed down the sink or toilet as soon as they are no longer needed. Only flush medicines if they have these specific instructions. Use the instructions under Household Disposal for all other medications.



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