



# How to Dispose of Unwanted Medications



Proper disposal of expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications protects the health of the community by preventing accidental overdose and potential abuse of these medications. It also protects our water supply and environment.

## NEVER DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS BY FLUSHING THEM DOWN THE TOILET OR DRAIN!

### HOW TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS:

1. Keep the medicines in the original container.
2. Mark out your name and prescription number.
3. For pills: add water or soda to start dissolving them.  
For liquids: add something inedible like cat litter, dirt, or cayenne pepper.
4. Close the lid and secure with duct or packing tape.
5. Place the bottle(s) inside an opaque (non see-through) container like a coffee can or plastic laundry bottle.
6. Tape the container closed.
7. Hide the container in the trash.
8. **Do not put in the blue recycling cart.**

### DRUG TAKE-BACK PROGRAMS

- Residents may take expired or unwanted medications to the Indian River County Sheriff's Office at 4055 41st Ave, Vero Beach. There is a green medication disposal box in the lobby 24/7. No need to call ahead!
- If you have questions or if you are homebound and have a fair amount of medications for disposal, please call the Sheriff's Office at 772-569-6700. You may also visit their website at [ircsheriff.org](http://ircsheriff.org).
- The Walgreens located at 1705 US Highway 1 in Vero Beach also has a medication disposal box next to their pharmacy. No need to call ahead!

**Please do not bring sharps to the medication disposal boxes or put them in the blue recycling cart. See reverse side for information regarding sharps disposal.**



### DEMONSTRATION OF SAFE MEDICINE DISPOSAL:



**Important:** Residents may only transport prescription medications that have been prescribed to them, not any belonging to friends or relatives. Transport medications in their original container.



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD) and Florida Department of Health (FDOH) Present



# SHARPS DISPOSAL AWARENESS



## FREE "SHARPS" CONTAINERS ALWAYS AVAILABLE!

"SHARPS" is the medical term for hypodermic needles, syringes, lancets and anything that is used to cut or penetrate the skin.

Indian River County residents may visit the IRC Florida Department of Health, IRC Landfill, or one of the five Customer Convenience Centers during normal operating hours to receive a **FREE** new "SHARPS" container. Properly marked filled containers may also be dropped off at any of these locations.

Appropriate containers include coffee cans and bleach bottles. When the container is 3/4 full, tape the lid on it with duct tape and clearly mark the container with the word "SHARPS".



Free "Sharps" Container

**NEVER, NEVER**  
put "sharps" containers  
in your recycling cart or trash!

This service is for Indian River County residents. Please present proof of residency.

### Indian River County Solid Waste Disposal District



To learn more visit [ircrecycles.com](http://ircrecycles.com) or call SWDD at 770-5112 or FDOH at 794-7440