



## HOW DO I GET RID OF IT?

The A to Z Guide for Recycling & Disposal in Pinellas County

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/getridofit>

Questions? Call Solid Waste at 464-7500.

All phone numbers are area code 727, unless otherwise indicated.

## Medications / Pharmaceutical Waste

*unused or outdated prescription or over-the-counter medications*

### **NOTE: Do NOT flush medications down the toilet!**

Wastewater treatment facilities are not designed to treat flushed medications that can interfere with plant operations. Another hazard is that medications can pass through the treatment facility and harm plants or fish downstream.

1. **Contact** your physician or pharmacy to see if they have a take-back program.
2. **Drop off** at [The Compounding Shop](#), 4000 Park St. N., St. Petersburg (381-9799) from 10am-6pm Monday-Friday for safe disposal (incineration) by a licensed contractor. Controlled substances are not accepted.
3. **Dispose.** Follow these safety tips to reduce the risk that loose medication could fall onto the street or into a storm sewer where an animal or child could eat it. Click here to [print a flyer](#) with this information plus photos.
  - a) *Packaging* – Keep the medication in the original container to help identify the contents if they are accidentally ingested.
  - b) *Privacy* – Mark out the patient's name and prescription number.
  - c) *Treating* – “Treat” pills by adding water or soda to dissolve them. For liquids, add something inedible such as cat litter, dirt, or cayenne pepper.
  - d) *Sealing* – Close the lid and secure with duct or packing tape. Place the bottle(s) inside an opaque (non see-through) container such as a coffee can or plastic laundry bottle. Tape that container closed.
  - e) *Hiding* – Hide the container in the trash. Do not place in a recycle bin.
4. **Businesses** may not dispose of hazardous pharmaceutical waste in the regular trash. Call Solid Waste Operations at 464-7500 for acceptance criteria for non-hazardous, over-the-counter pharmaceutical waste.

Also see: [Pill bottles](#)