

## DON'T FLUSH YOUR DRUGS!



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

## WHAT ABOUT SHARPS DISPOSAL?

### Sharps Disposal Locations in Central Contra Costa County

#### ALAMO

Contra Costa Sheriff's Substation  
150 Alamo Plaza, Suite C

#### CLAYTON

City of Clayton  
6000 Heritage Trail

#### CONCORD

Concord Disposal Services  
4080 Mallard Drive

#### LAFAYETTE

Lafayette Fire Station  
3338 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### MARTINEZ

Mt. View Sanitary District 3800 Arthur Road

#### MORAGA

Moraga Fire Station  
1280 Moraga Way

#### ORINDA

Orinda Police Dept.  
22 Orinda Way

#### WALNUT CREEK

Walnut Creek Fire Station  
1050 Walnut Avenue

#### WALNUT CREEK

City of Walnut Creek  
1666 North Main Street

## QUESTIONS?

For additional information about safe pharmaceutical disposal, please call **1-800-646-1431** or visit [www.centrialsan.org](http://www.centrialsan.org)

*Central Contra Costa Sanitary District's pharmaceutical collection program is provided in partnership with the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff; the Cities of Clayton, Concord, Danville, Martinez, Moraga, Orinda, Pleasant Hill, and Walnut Creek; Allied Waste Services of Contra Costa County, Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, and Concord Disposal.*

## HOW TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF UNWANTED MEDICATIONS



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



## CHECK YOUR MEDICINE CABINET



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 unwanted medications properly will help to 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 water samples from 30 states. Research has linked pharmaceutical pollutants to reproductive defects in fish, resistance to antibiotics and the development of drug-resistant germs.

## SAFELY DISPOSE OF UNWANTED MEDICATIONS

Due to legal restrictions, the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility in Martinez does not accept medications. Please use the following disposal methods, instead.

**1** Check with your pharmacy to see if it offers a take-back program for your non-controlled (non-narcotic) drugs.

**2** To dispose of unwanted medications, pour pills into a quart-size sealable plastic bag (recycle the empty containers as appropriate); liquids should be left in their bottles, but still put into a sealed plastic bag to prevent leakage. Dispose of your medications at one of these locations:

- Town of Alamo, Contra Costa Sheriff's Substation  
150 Alamo Plaza, Suite C, Alamo
- Contra Costa Sheriff's Field Operations Building  
1980 Muir Road, Martinez
- County Regional Medical Center  
2500 Alhambra Ave., Martinez
- Town of Danville, Police Department  
510 La Gonda Way, Danville
- City of Lafayette, Police Department  
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 130, Lafayette
- City of Martinez, Police Department, City Hall  
525 Henrietta Street, Martinez
- Town of Moraga, Police Department  
329 Rheem Blvd., Moraga
- City of Pleasant Hill, Police Department  
330 Civic Dr., Pleasant Hill
- City of Walnut Creek, Police Department, City Hall  
1666 North Main St., Walnut Creek

**Contact drop-off locations directly for hours or access restrictions that may be in place.**



*Do **not** dispose of syringes or needles with medications. Seal bottled liquids in a plastic bag to prevent spills.*

**3** If you are unable to take your medications to one of the above drop-off locations, **AS A LAST RESORT** you may put them in the trash:

- 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 prescription labels before putting medication containers in the recycling bin or trash