



Safely Dispose of Unused Medications

Flushing medications can contaminate the water supply and unused medications thrown in the trash can be found by children and pets.

Use a permanent dropbox or Drug Take Back Day

- Permanent dropboxes will take medications any time of the year during business hours. Liquids, inhalers, aerosols and sharps (needles and syringes) are not accepted.
- In Fairfax County, Drug Take Back Days occur twice a year. Check with your local pharmacy or law enforcement agency.

Get a deactivation kit

Deactivation kits contain a substance that neutralizes medications. Fairfax County offers deactivation kits. To use:

- Place unused medication in pouch. Each pouch can deactivate 45 pills or 6 oz. liquid or 6 patches.
- Fill halfway with warm tap water and wait 30 seconds.
- Seal, gently shake pouch and throw out in trash.

Mix medications with an inedible substance and throw in the trash

Check the pill bottle for any instructions on proper disposal. If none are present, follow these steps:

- Remove medication from original containers. Do not crush tablets or capsules.
- Mix medication with undesirable substance like kitty litter or used coffee grounds.
- Place mixture in a sealable bag, or container and throw away in trash.
- Black out all personal information on the prescription label so that it is unreadable.



Deactivation Kit Locations

Annandale District Office
7611 Little River TnPk., 400-E
Annandale, VA 22003
(703) 534-8343, TTY 711

Herndon-Reston District Office
1850 Cameron Glen Dr., #100
Reston, VA 20190
(703) 481-4242, TTY 711

Mount Vernon District Office
8350 Richmond Hwy., #233
Alexandria, VA 22309
(703) 704-5203, TTY 711

Springfield District Office
8136 Old Keene Mill Rd., A-100
Springfield, VA 22152
(703) 569-1031, TTY 711

Joseph Willard Health Center
3750 Old Lee Hwy.
Fairfax, VA 22030
(703) 246-7100, TTY 711

Permanent Dropbox Locations

Fairfax County Police Stations
Fair Oaks; Franconia; Mason;
McLean; Mt. Vernon; Reston; Sully;
West Springfield

CVS Pharmacies
Alexandria-Lockheed Blvd.;
Annandale-Little River TnPk;
Centreville-Pickwick; Fairfax-
Greenbriar; Falls Church-Yorktown

Walgreens Pharmacies
Alexandria-Richmond Hwy;
Annandale-Backlick Rd.;
Centreville-Lee Hwy; Springfield-
Old Keene Mill Rd.

Spectrum Healthcare Resources
10580 Arrowhead Dr., Fairfax, VA
(571) 432-2600

Kaiser Reston
1890 Metro Center Dr., Reston, VA
(703) 709-1560

Inova Fair Oaks Hospital
3600 Joseph Siewick Dr., Fairfax, VA
(703) 391-3080



For more information on proper disposal of medications go to:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/drug-disposal

For more information on guidance for sharps disposal go to:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/hazardous-waste



Managing Household Sharps and Inhalers/Aerosols at Home

Household sharps include needles, syringes with attached needles, lancets, auto injectors (insulin pens), and other items with a sharp edge that are used at home through self-care, rather than under the care of a home health care professional or at a health care facility.

Sharps, including epinephrine (Epi-pen), auto-injectors and insulin pens can be thrown out in the regular trash when following these steps



- Rigid Container: Use a container with a screw-on cap such as an empty laundry detergent bottle or bleach bottle. The bottles must be marked with a warning label using a felt-tipped marking pen. DO NOT place household sharps in glass containers, plastic soda bottles, milk jugs or aluminum cans.



Source: [US Food & Drug Administration](#)

- Label/Warning: Label the container using a permanent marker - CAUTION! SYRINGES - NEEDLES. DO NOT RECYCLE!

- Clip the needle or recap discarded sharps: Clip the needle if you wish. You can purchase an inexpensive hand-held needle clipper at a pharmacy. After clipping the needle, carefully place each of the used needles and syringes into the rigid container with the screw-on lid. You can also recap or re-sheathe the needle and then place into the rigid container.
- Seal: Once the container is full, seal the container with the original cap and wrap tape over the cap.
- Disposal: Dispose of the sealed container with your household trash. DO NOT recycle sharps or sharps containers, place loose sharps directly into trash bags or flush sharps down the toilet.
- A properly sealed, rigid container containing clipped epi-pens or insulin pens/syringes ONLY, may also be brought to one of the county's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collections sites at 1-66 Transfer Station or the 1-95 Landfill Complex (links to HHW collection sites below).

How to dispose of inhalers or aerosol products

To dispose of inhalers, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends that you read "handling instructions" on the labeling of inhalers or aerosol products. These products could be dangerous if punctured or thrown into a fire or incinerator. To properly dispose of these products and follow local regulations and laws, contact your trash and recycling facility. In Fairfax County it is recommended to carefully pack them up and bring them to one of the county's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Sites at 1-66 Transfer Station (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/i-66-transfer-station) and 1-95 Landfill complex (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/i-95-landfill-complex).

