

## Pharmaceuticals in Our Environment

Residues of various types of medicinal products such as hormones, anti-cancer, antibiotics, and antidepressants have been detected in our waters and soils, which presents negative implications for exposed plants, animals, microbes, and possibly humans. **The issue is that we lack a global view of what happens when these medicinal products are discharged into our environment.**



A significant portion of medicinal products are **disposed of by flushing them down sinks and toilets** which is then transferred to a waste water treatment plant where the water can be cleaned and released back into streams and rivers. **The issue with this method of disposal is that some medicinal chemicals can survive even after wastewater treatment, thus sending contaminated water to our rivers, streams and oceans.** Once in the environment, medicinal products are transformed and transferred between the different compartments of the environment—surface water, ground water, soil and air, through chemical processes. Medicinal products also have the ability to accumulate in the fat tissues of animals and can be thus introduced into the food chain and consumed by humans.



Thanks for protecting the environment by properly disposing of your un-needed and expired medicine.

You are *Creating a Clean Water Future* for generations to come...

Visit [www.CleanWaterFuture.com](http://www.CleanWaterFuture.com) to find out how you can get involved with the **Clean Water Future** campaign and to access information, links to resources and downloadable tools to get started making a difference today.

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## Proper Disposal of Expired or Unneeded Prescription Drugs



In efforts to protect our  
environment and our  
community.

# Benefits of Recycling Unused and Expired Medications

- Prevent contamination of streams, rivers, oceans, groundwater and soils.
- Protects our fish, wildlife and plant species.
- Prevents the illegal sale of pharmaceuticals and lowers risk of illegal use.
- Protect children and pets from harm caused by accidental ingestion.



## How can you help?

Go through your medicine cabinet and take out any medications, prescriptions or pet medications that are expired or no longer needed.

Pour all pills and capsules into a sandwich bag and zip it closed.

Keep all syrups, creams, inhalants, and powders in their original bottles.

Scratch off or mark through all of your personal information in the prescription labels.

Place all empty pill bottles in your plastic recycling.

Drop off your plastic bag of pills, creams, syrups, powders, and inhalants to the proper drop off locations. Here are some drop off locations in your area where you can easily drop them in a drop box.

## Expired Prescription Drop Off Locations in Your Area

### Daphne Police Station

1502 US Hwy 98, Daphne, AL 36526  
251-621-9100

### Walgreens

3025 US Hwy 98, Daphne , AL 36526  
(251) 621-7266



Look for pharmaceutical drop off boxes like this one in your community!