

**Your Watershed
By the Russian River Watershed Association**

Safe Medicine Disposal

Don't flush that unused or expired medication down the drain **or** dispose of it in the trash! The safest way to dispose of unwanted medication is to bring it to locations that can accept unused and expired medicines for disposal. These locations include select pharmacies and law enforcement offices participating in a Regional Safe Medicine Disposal Program, Community Toxics Collections (appointment required: 795-2025), and the Household Toxics Facility. Disposing of unused medication correctly prevents it from entering our waterways and the environment.

Local agencies are trying to make medicine disposal easier for residents by starting a Regional Safe Medicine Disposal Program. This program is being piloted in Sonoma County for six months and then will be evaluated for expansion if success measures are met. Unwanted medication (no ointments, lotions, creams, or liquids; please) should be brought in original containers, with personal information marked out, to any participating drop-off location during business hours. Staff will collect them FREE of charge and place them in a secure bin for disposal. Participating drop-off locations are shown below:

Pilot Programs Ending in May 2008:

Guerneville: Safeway Pharmacy, Lark's Drugs, Sonoma County Sheriff (810 Grove Street)

Sonoma: Rite Aide (Maxwell Village Center), Safeway Pharmacy, Long's Drugs, Sonoma County Sheriff (Sonoma Highway), and Sonoma City Police Department (175 1st Street)

Pilot Programs Ending in July 2008:

Santa Rosa: Creekside Pharmacy, Dollar Drug, Long's Drugs (4th Street, Mendocino Ave, Stony Point Road), The Medicine Shoppe, Tuttle's Hoen Pharmacy, Tuttle's Doyle Park, Walgreens (Marlow Road, Old Redwood Highway, Sonoma Highway)

Rohnert Park: Long's Drugs (Commerce Blvd), Costco Pharmacy

Cotati: Walgreens

Sebastopol: Safeway, Long's Drugs

Ongoing Collections:

Household Toxics Facility at the Central Disposal Site (500 Mecham Rd, Petaluma)
Community Toxics Collections – various sites in Sonoma County, see Recycling Guide in the AT&T Yellow Pages phonebook or www.recyclenow.org for details. Appointment required: 795-2025.

When the pilot program ends, the Russian River Watershed Association will aid in evaluating the usefulness and foot traffic the bins are seeing, and consider expanding the program. Preliminary expansion plans include locations in the Town of Windsor, Healdsburg, Cloverdale, and Ukiah. Medication disposal at the Household Toxics Facility will continue. Act now – the environment will thank you!

RRWA is an association of local public agencies in the Russian River Watershed that have come together to coordinate regional programs for clean water, fisheries restoration, and watershed enhancement.