

Your Watershed: No Drugs Down the Drain!

By: The Russian River Watershed Association

Are unused and expired medications filling up your medicine cabinet? Don't flush them down the drain or throw them in the trash. Help protect your family and the environment by taking your unwanted medication to a take-back location. This fall, in conjunction with the "No Drugs Down the Drain" statewide campaign, the Russian River Watershed Association and the Mendocino County Solid Waste Management Agency are adding additional take back locations where you can properly dispose of your unused medications.

Recent studies show that pharmaceuticals in rivers and streams, if present at high enough concentrations, can harm aquatic wildlife. When flushed down the drain, some medications are not completely removed by wastewater treatment plants and are discharged to surface waters. Proper disposal of unused pharmaceuticals can help protect the environment.

To minimize the amount of pharmaceuticals in local rivers and streams, the Russian River Watershed Association and the Mendocino County Solid Waste Management Agency are partnering with local agencies, pharmacies and law enforcement offices to provide additional safe medicine disposal locations in Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Windsor, and Ukiah starting October 4th. This effort expands on-going programs sponsored by the Sonoma County Water Agency and the City of Santa Rosa.

The Safe Medicine Disposal Program will provide a FREE and convenient option for correctly disposing of expired and unused medications. Proper disposal of expired and unused medications can help avoid dosing errors and self-medication; reduce the risk of accidental poisoning; reduce the potential of intentional abuse of medicines; and reduce the amount of medicine incorrectly disposed of in household garbage and flushed down drains.

Locations:

Cloverdale:

Cloverdale Pharmacy, 117 Broad St.

Cotati:

Walgreens, 7800 Old Redwood Hwy.

Guerneville:

Safeway Pharmacy, 16405 River Rd.

Lark's Drugs, 16251 Main St.

Sonoma County Sheriff, 1st and Church Sts.

Healdsburg:

Longs Drugs, 455 Center St.

Healdsburg Police Department, 438 Center St.

Santa Rosa:

Costco Pharmacy, 1900 Santa Rosa Ave.

Creekside Pharmacy, 95 Montgomery Dr.

Dollar Drug, 1055 W. College Ave.

Longs Drugs, 2771 4th St.

Longs Drugs, 2075 Mendocino Ave.

Longs Drugs, 463 Stony Point Rd.

The Medicine Shoppe, 990 Sonoma Ave.
Tuttles Hoen Pharmacy, 4731 Hoen Ave.
Tuttles Doyle Park Pharmacy, 1220 Sonoma Ave.
Walgreens Drug Store, 4610 Sonoma Hwy.

Sebastopol:

Longs Drugs, 788 Gravenstein Hwy North
Safeway, 406 N. Main St.

Sonoma:

Rite Aid/ Maxwell Village Shopping Center, 19205 Sonoma Hwy.
Safeway Pharmacy, 477 West Napa St.
Longs Drugs, 201 West Napa St.
Sonoma County Sheriff's Department Valley Substation, 810 Grove St., El Verano
Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St. West.

Rohnert Park:

Costco Pharmacy, 5901 Redwood Dr.
Longs Drugs, 6378 Commerce Blvd.

Windsor:

Health First Pharmacy, 9070 Windsor Rd.
Longs Drugs, 9030 Brooks Rd. South

Ukiah:

Walgreens Pharmacy, 308 E Perkins St.

For more information on this program, please call the Russian River Watershed Association at 707-833-2553 or visit: www.rrwatershed.org/safemeds. For more information on additional disposal sites in the Russian River Watershed please visit the following websites: for Sonoma and Guerneville, please visit the Sonoma County Water Agency's website: www.scwasafemeds.org; for Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Rohnert Park and Cotati, please visit: www.srcity.org/safemed; for Mendocino County, please visit: www.mendorecycle.org; for Sonoma County, please visit: www.recyclenow.org; and for sites in the rest of the state visit: www.NoDrugsDownTheDrain.org.

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.