



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 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.



Guidance for sharps disposal

Sharps are more commonly known as needles and syringes. Use the following steps for disposal of this home generated medical waste:

- Use a RIGID CONTAINER with a screw-on cap such as an empty laundry detergent bottle or bleach bottle.
- LABEL the Container "CAUTION! SYRINGES - NEEDLES. DO NOT RECYCLE."
- CLIP the needle and carefully place into labeled container or RECAP or RE-SHEATHE the needle.
- After container is full, SEAL with screw-on lid and WRAP tape over the lid.
- DISPOSE of the sealed, full container with your household trash. DO NOT place in the recycle bin.

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



A Fairfax County, Va., publication. Updated January 2019. For more information or to request this information in an alternate format, call the Fairfax County Health Department at 703-246-2411, TTY 711.