

Medication Disposal

- All unused, discontinued, outdated, recalled and contaminated meds must be disposed of in a manner that prevents illegal diversion of these substances.
- The same applies for drugs in containers with worn, illegible or missing labels.
- A written record of the drug disposal must be maintained as required in OAR.

Expired medications are not only unsafe to ingest, but they can also be dangerous when not disposed of properly. When expired, unused or discontinued medications are flushed down the toilet, they end up in the city's water treatment. Often the plant does not have the capacity to thoroughly clean out this pollution and the medications are released into the water system.

If you need to dispose of any medications, crush all pills and mix with cat litter, sawdust or used coffee grounds and dispose into a plastic bag and secure tightly. For liquid medications, fill a plastic bag with an absorbent material such as cat litter or sawdust, then pour the liquid in and tie the bag shut. Wrap the plastic bag in another bag and put into your garbage on the day of collection.

Safe Syringe Disposal

Oregon law (ORS 459.386 to 459.405) prohibits the storage and disposal of syringes in normal trash, yard waste or recycling. All users of syringes must place them in an approved leak proof, rigid, puncture resistant red container that is closed to prevent loss of contents when transported and disposed. Individuals in violation are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$500 per day.

- Call your local garbage collection service to receive an approved red plastic container for SAFE disposal. The container will be delivered to your residence for a nominal fee.
- Some pharmacies may also provide disposal containers
- **LANCET NEEDLES USED FOR BLOOD GLUCOSE TESTING MUST BE DISPOSED OF AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.**