

SMAR_xT DISPOSAL™

A National Public Awareness and Partnership Campaign

Promoting Responsible Consumer Medication Disposal to Ensure Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems

WHAT IS SMAR_xT DISPOSAL™?

This awareness campaign is a unique public-private partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the American Pharmacists Association, and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. SMAR_xT DISPOSAL™ targets medication consumers to raise their awareness about the potential negative environmental impacts improperly disposed medications may have on aquatic ecosystems and provides guidance on proper disposal alternatives.

WHAT ARE THE CAMPAIGN GOALS?

SMAR_xT DISPOSAL™ seeks to raise consumer awareness while promoting environmentally-friendly consumer behaviors through diverse communication networks. The goals are to elevate the medication disposal issue, encourage consumers not to use the outdated advice of “flush unused medications or pour them down the sink” and provide them with more environmentally-friendly alternatives.

WHY TARGET MEDICATION CONSUMERS?

Medication therapy is a foundation of western medicine and provides our society with significant quality of life benefits. Most Americans are medication consumers at some point in their lives, and they can impact the proper disposal of unused medications.

Scientific research indicates that current consumer advice for medication disposal may contribute to environmental harm. Also, most consumers lack awareness of the potential environmental and societal impacts of improperly disposed of medications.



SMAR_xT DISPOSAL™

A Prescription for a Healthy Planet

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

AMERICAN PHARMACISTS
ASSOCIATION

PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH AND
MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA

HOW WILL THIS CAMPAIGN BE DELIVERED?

This is a national campaign that unites diverse interests from the health care profession, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and conservation community to participate, collaborate and succeed locally. Pharmacies will serve as one of the key educational intervention points and will be supported with materials from the government and pharmaceutical manufacturers to promote environmentally-responsible consumer behaviors through appropriate medication disposal.

The synergistic integration of campaign materials into the outreach efforts and promotions by state and federal agencies, conservation groups, pharmacies, and pharmaceutical manufacturers will raise awareness.

The campaign Web site (www.smarxtdisposal.net) is pivotal in communication efforts and highlights the steps consumers can take to ensure their everyday actions will safeguard lives and protect the environment.

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WHAT STEPS DOES THE SMAR_xT DISPOSAL™ CAMPAIGN RECOMMEND FOR DISPOSAL?

Follow your medication prescriber's instructions and use all medications as instructed. If you do not use all of your prescribed or over-the-counter medication, you can take a few small steps to make a huge impact in safeguarding lives and protecting the environment by disposing of unused medicines properly:

1) DO NOT FLUSH unused medications and **DO NOT POUR** them down a sink or drain.

2) Be Proactive and Dispose of Unused Medication In Household Trash. When discarding unused medications, ensure you protect children and pets from potentially negative effects:

- Pour medication into a sealable plastic bag. If medication is a solid (pill, liquid capsule, etc.) crush it or add water to dissolve it.
- Add kitty litter, sawdust, coffee grounds (or any material that mixes with the medication and makes it less appealing for pets and children to eat) to the plastic bag.
- Seal the plastic bag and put it in the trash.
- Remove and destroy ALL identifying personal information (prescription label) from all medication containers before recycling them or throwing them into the trash.

3) Check for Approved State and Local Collection Programs. Another option is to check for approved state and local collection alternatives such as community based household hazardous waste collection programs. In certain states, you may be able to take your unused medications to your community pharmacy or other location for disposal.