



## Proper Disposal of Medications



Please do not flush medications down the drain. They flow through the sewer system to the 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Sub-Regional Operating Group (SROG) member cities of Glendale, Mesa, Phoenix, Scottsdale, and Tempe encourage you to dispose of medications properly to avoid impacts to this facility. While some medications are removed in the treatment process, there are remaining drugs that the plant was not designed to remove.

After treatment, the reclaimed water and remaining traces of medication not removed during the process, are released to the environment. These medications have the potential to accumulate and possibly affect aquatic wildlife. Houses with septic systems may introduce medications into the ground water. This could be a problem if drinking water wells are used in the area. The SROG cities encourage residents to reduce their levels of medications in they flush down the toilet or otherwise put into the sewer system through proper disposal practices.

### How Can I help?

#### 1) Contact Your Pharmacy

Many large pharmacies have installed safe medication disposal kiosks in their store. Check their website to see if one is available in your area.



#### 2) Dispose at Home

Mix medications with cat litter or used coffee grounds and place in a sealed disposable container or plastic bag. Throw away the container in the trash. Be sure to cover up or remove personal information from medicine bottles or containers before throwing the empty container in the trash.



#### 3) Drug-Take Back Events

A list of medication drop-off locations and events in Arizona can be found at:  
[http://www.acpa.net/arizona\\_drug\\_disposal\\_locations.aspx](http://www.acpa.net/arizona_drug_disposal_locations.aspx)



#### 4) City Drop Off Locations

Each City has drop off locations, secure disposal bins, or other convenient programs!

Click on the links below for more information:

Gilbert: [Medical Waste Disposal Website](#)

Glendale: [Proper Ways to Dispose of Medication Brochure](#)

Mesa: [Prescription Medication Disposal Website](#)

Phoenix: [Proper Disposal of Medications](#)

Scottsdale: [Safe Drug Disposal Website](#)

Tempe: [Environmentally Friendly Disposal of Medication Brochure](#)



### Bottom Line:

Please DON'T flush expired or unwanted medications, prescriptions, or over-the-counter drugs down the drain. Help keep your family and the environment safe and healthy!