



# MEDICINE COLLECTION DAY

## a prescription for clean water & safe kids

*For Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine and Washington Counties.  
(Due to funding, residents may only visit the collection in your county)*



# April 18th, 2009

## 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**NEVER FLUSH** or pour unused medicine down the drain.  
Bring it to a special "Medicine Collection Day."

- *Help protect Lake Michigan*
- *Prevent childhood poisonings*
- *Reduce substance abuse*

**You Can Bring:** Prescription Medication & Over the Counter Medication.  
Ointments, sprays, inhalers, creams, vials and pet medications are acceptable.

**Do NOT Bring:** Illegal Drugs, Biohazardous Material, Needles/Sharps,  
Personal Care Products (shampoo, soaps, lotions, sunscreens, etc).  
Household Hazardous Waste (paint, pesticides, oil, gas)

### WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove all medicines from wastewater. Drugs can end up going through the plants and directly to our lakes and rivers. Various levels of antibiotics, anti-depressants, veterinary drugs, birth control hormones and other drugs have been detected in waterways across the United States.

Research suggests that hormones found in pharmaceuticals may cause abnormalities in the reproductive cycles of fish. Antibiotics in the environment may also contribute to the development of drug resistant germs.



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*Click on your county  
for a map of the  
collection sites.*

#### MILWAUKEE COUNTY RESIDENTS

Miller Park, Milwaukee WI  
Miller lot by the "sausage haus"

[\*printable .pdf of map\*](#)

#### OZAUKEE COUNTY RESIDENTS

Port Washington  
Ozaukee County Hwy. Dept.  
410 S. Spring Street, Port Washington

[\*link to map\*](#)

Mequon  
Milwaukee Area Technical College  
5555 West Highland Road, Mequon

[\*link to map\*](#)

#### RACINE COUNTY RESIDENTS

Eastern Collection Site  
6200 21st Street, Racine

[\*link to map\*](#)

Western Collection Site  
156 E. State St., Burlington

[\*link to map\*](#)

#### WASHINGTON COUNTY

St. Joseph's Hospital Campus  
3200 Pleasant Valley Rd., West Bend

[\*link to map\*](#)



## HOW DOES THE COLLECTION WORK?

Please keep medication in the original package or bottle. You CAN cross off your name and address, but DO NOT cover up or remove the name of the medicine. Simply drive or walk through the drop off area and give your medicine to a pharmacist. They will sort the medication into one of two groups. Federal law requires that we immediately hand over certain drugs to law enforcement. Law enforcement will destroy all drugs it receives. Veolia Environmental Services will incinerate the rest of the medicine collected at a federally licensed incinerator.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH OLD MEDS IF I CAN'T GO TO THE COLLECTION?

If you CAN store it safely, keeping it out of the reach of kids, save it until the next "Medicine Collection Day." If you CAN'T store it safely and have to get rid of it, the federal government recommends throwing unused medicine in the garbage. *It's not a perfect option.* Most landfills collect liquid that seeps through the landfill and direct it to a sanitary sewer. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove all medicines from wastewater. However, if you need to throw it away, grind it up and mix it with coffee grounds or something nasty that no one would want to eat. Or, dissolve it in a jar with water and kitty litter.

*For More Information, Check Out These Links:*



- [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [Waste & Materials Management Program - WDNR](#)
- [Unwanted Meds](#)
- [U.S. Geological Society Research Article: Pharmaceuticals, hormones, and other organic wastewater contaminants in U.S. streams, 1999-2000: a national reconnaissance](#)
- [American Water Works Association](#)



For more information please visit  
[www.mmsd.com](http://www.mmsd.com)

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Western Racine County Health Department



# ADVERTISING MATERIAL

*PLEASE feel free to print and cut out the postcard below. Place these printouts where you think people will take notice to help keep our water clean and our kids safe.*



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