



CITY OF BATAVIA

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

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Mayor

UNWANTED MEDICATION DISPOSAL PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is wrong with flushing medications down the toilet?

When medications are flushed down the toilet or thrown down the drain, they can end up in our water supply. The long-term effects of these pharmaceuticals and OTC products are currently not fully understood, however, we do know that having pharmaceuticals in the water supply can affect the local environment, including aquatic life.

How does medication get into our water?

When medication is not disposed of properly, it can end up in our lakes, rivers, streams, and ground water. Pharmaceuticals are often discarded by throwing them down a drain, toilet, or carelessly into the trash. When disposed of this way, over time, these medications can find their way into the ground water supply, runoff into lakes, rivers and streams, and, in rare occasions, top soil.

How does medication in the water affect me? The environment?

Medication that is not disposed of properly can harm humans and wildlife, especially fish and amphibians. Medications that are thrown in the trash may be easy for kids to get into. Thousands of children every year are treated for unintentional ingestion of pharmaceuticals. Pharmaceuticals in the water have been shown to adversely affect wildlife. Trace amounts have been found in some samples of finished drinking water, but the Illinois Department of Public Health and the U.S. EPA do not believe it to endanger public health.

Is it okay for me to throw medication in the trash?

Medication that is carelessly thrown in the trash is an easy target for kids. It is also a target for other household members, pets, and even burglars. Aside from these risks, medication that is thrown in a trash bag will eventually end up sitting in a landfill, where it may leak or dissolve indirectly into the ground water.

Where can I go to drop off my medications?

You may bring your prescription and OTC medications to the Batavia Police Department: 100 North Island Avenue, Batavia, Illinois. The Batavia Police Department is open 24/7 year round. Medications from hospitals, continuing care facilities, clinics, doctor offices, or any other business, which distributes medications, are not eligible to participate.



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What is not accepted?

DEA controlled drugs, sharps/needles, IV bags, inhalers, thermometers and bloody or infectious waste.

How do I dispose of inhalers?

You may put empty inhalers in your regular recycling bins, since they are made of plastic and aluminum. Inhalers that are not empty may have to wait for the yearly county disposal event. You may also contact Kane County at www.countyofkane.org/Recycling/Pages/pharmMeds.aspx for alternative disposal sites.

How do I dispose of needles?

There are currently not any options for drop-off disposal of syringes in Kane County. There are actually very few nationally and the industry is working towards future opportunities in this area. For now, you can subscribe to one of the following mail-in programs:

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful – www.KNIB.org

North American Syringe Exchange Network – www.nasen.org

Sharps Compliance – www.sharpsinc.com

You may also follow these instructions for Safe Disposal of Needles:

- Use a puncture proof sharps container, which can be purchased at pharmacies. Alternatively, hard plastic household containers, such as laundry detergent containers, may be used. No milk jugs or coffee cans.
- Sharps should be placed in the sharps container immediately after use.
- Put sharps in point-first.
- Store sharps in closed container with cap screwed on tight until disposal.
- Containers more than half-full should be disposed of. Do not cram full.
- Clearly label container “**SHARPS, DO NOT RECYCLE**” with a bold marker.
- When the container is half full, tape lid on securely with duct tape and place in trash.
- For more information contact Kane County Recycles at:
www.countyofkane.org/Recycling/Pages/sharps.aspx

Can I just bring medications back to my local pharmacy?

No. The pharmacies in Batavia do not offer a collection program.

What happens to the medications after I drop them off? Is the disposal environmentally safe?

The medications are delivered to a plant, where they will be incinerated. Incineration is environmentally safer than other disposal methods. The process is highly regulated by the EPA. It is done in a way that minimizes contamination of air particles.