

## PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES

Some prescriptions not accepted. Read attached flyer (next two pages), or visit the following website for more information:

[www.medicinereturn.com](http://www.medicinereturn.com)

Additional information on safely disposing of prescriptions in the garbage is available on the following website:

[www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/factsht/proper\\_disposal.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/factsht/proper_disposal.html)

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### Return unused or expired prescriptions to the Unwanted Medicine Return Pilot Program at the following locations in Pierce County:

Company	Hours of Operation
Group Health Cooperative Puyallup Medical Center Pharmacy 611 31 <sup>st</sup> Avenue SW Puyallup, WA 98373 (253) 445-7100 <a href="http://www.ghc.org/locations/index.jhtml">www.ghc.org/locations/index.jhtml</a>	Monday – Sunday: 8:30 am – 6 pm  Closed Thursday: 12:30 – 1:30 pm
Group Health Cooperative Tacoma South Medical Center Pharmacy 9505 South Steele Street Tacoma, WA 98444 (253) 597-6820 <a href="http://www.ghc.org/locations/index.jhtml">www.ghc.org/locations/index.jhtml</a>	Monday – Friday: 8:30 am – 6 pm  Closed Thursday: 12:30 – 1:30 pm
Group Health Cooperative Tacoma Medical Center Pharmacy 209 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Tacoma, WA 98405 (253) 596-3350 <a href="http://www.ghc.org/locations/index.jhtml">www.ghc.org/locations/index.jhtml</a>	Monday – Sunday: 8:30 am – 11 pm  Holidays variable hours
Bartell Drugs University Place Pharmacy 2700 Bridgeport Way W. University Place, WA 98466 (253) 460-6222 <a href="http://www.bartelldrugs.com/stores/index.html">www.bartelldrugs.com/stores/index.html</a>	Monday – Friday: 9 am – 9 pm Saturday: 9 am – 6 pm Sunday: 10 am – 6 pm

## Why Return Unwanted Medicines?

**1.** Your home is safer. Help protect children and the elderly from the most common cause of accidents. Storing unwanted medications puts everyone in your home at risk.

**2.** Proper and safe disposal of unwanted medications prevents theft and other misuse.

**3.** When you return your medications for proper disposal, you are protecting local waters and aquatic life.

The Medication Take-Back Program is available at participating pharmacies. To locate a participating pharmacy, call **1-800-732-9253** or visit [www.MedicineReturn.com](http://www.MedicineReturn.com).

This Program is only available during pharmacy hours of operation.

*Ask your pharmacist additional questions about medication use or disposal procedures.*

For more information, please visit [www.MedicineReturn.com](http://www.MedicineReturn.com) or call **1-800-732-9253**

This program is made possible by:

- Bartell Drugs
- Group Health Cooperative
- Group Health Community Foundation
- Interagency Resource for Achieving Cooperation (IRAC)
- Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
- Northwest Product Stewardship Council
- Pacific NW Pollution Prevention Resource Center
- Public Health – Seattle & King County
- Puget Sound Action Team
- Seattle Public Utilities
- Snohomish County Solid Waste Division
- The Russell Family Foundation
- Washington Citizens for Resource Conservation
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Washington State Department of Social and Health Services – Aging and Disability Services Administration Project Advisor
- Washington Board of Pharmacy (Project Advisor)

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## Return Unwanted Medications for Free & Safe Disposal



### Protect your family

Returning unwanted medications makes your home safer.

### Protect our community

Proper and safe disposal prevents theft and other misuse of medications.

### Protect our environment

Flushing or throwing away medications puts our waterways and aquatic life at risk.



## How to Return Your Unwanted Medicines

1.

Gather your unwanted medications. See list to the right to find out which items can be returned. Leave items in the original containers. Mark out any personal information if you wish.

2.

Bring medications to a participating pharmacy. To locate a participating pharmacy call **1-800-732-9253** or go to [www.MedicineReturn.com](http://www.MedicineReturn.com)

3.

Deposit medications into the secure bin marked for "medication return".

*Cleaning out your medicine cabinet will help avoid mistakes.*



## What Can You Return For Safe Disposal?

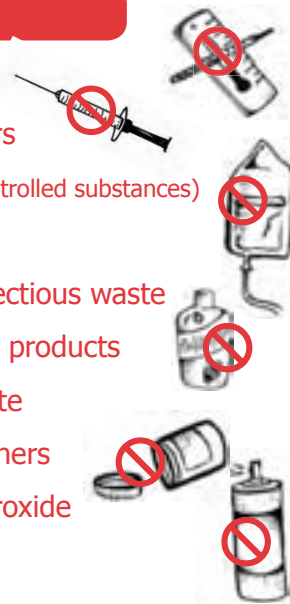
### Return: YES!

- ✓ Prescription medications
- ✓ Over-the-counter medications
- ✓ Medication samples
- ✓ Medications for pets
- ✓ Vitamins
- ✓ Medicated ointments/lotions
- ✓ Inhalers
- ✓ Liquid medication in glass or leak-proof containers



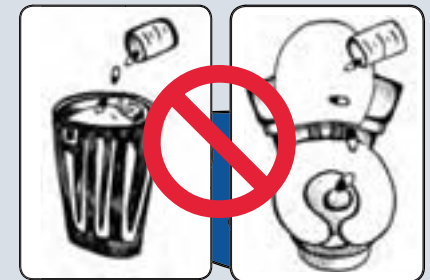
### Return: NO!

- ✗ Needles
- ✗ Thermometers
- ✗ Narcotics (controlled substances)
- ✗ IV bags
- ✗ Bloody or infectious waste
- ✗ Personal care products
- ✗ Business waste
- ✗ Empty containers
- ✗ Hydrogen peroxide
- ✗ Aerosol cans



## Medications and The Environment

Medications enter the water when they are flushed down toilets and sinks or put into the garbage or when humans and animals pass drugs through their bodies.



Pollutants from medications have been found in the Puget Sound and waterways nationwide. These chemicals could impact aquatic organisms or degrade water quality.