

# WHERE DO MY DRUGS GO?

## Human Drugs

from



Households



Healthcare Facilities



Dispose through **drug take-back programs** or as directed



**Incinerated**



**Improper Disposal**

Flushing medications down the toilet or sink.



**Goes to Wastewater Treatment Plants**



**Into Freshwater, Surface Water and Tap Water**



**Our Drinking Water!**

Or other forms of exposure to humans, animals, and plants.



# CHECKLIST

- Remove personal information from medication bottles.
- Place pills, liquids, and creams in a sealed plastic bag. Keep liquids and creams in their original container.
- Do not crush pills.
- Bring medication to a pharmacy or disposal site.



## NATIONAL TAKE BACK PROGRAM



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Return unused or expired medications to **any pharmacy in Canada** any day of the year.

## SAFE DRUG DISPOSAL IN ONTARIO



Protecting your health and our planet!



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Developed by IMS MSc students at **Western University** alongside **Dr. Oana Birceanu's Lab**

# WHY DOES PROPER DISPOSAL MATTER?



Throwing away or flushing old medication can **pollute water** and **harm plants, animals, and people**.



**15 CITIES IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO FOUND TRACE AMOUNTS OF HOUSEHOLD PERSCRIPTIONS IN TAP WATER.**

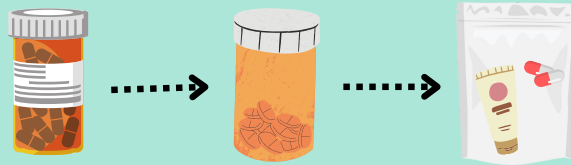
Even **small amounts** of these drugs can be **harmful** to:

- Pregnant individuals
- Seniors
- Children
- Pets
- Immunocompromised individuals



# HOW TO DISPOSE OF YOUR DRUGS PROPERLY

**1. Remove or scratch out personal information and place medication in a plastic bag.**



Put pills in a return container if available; leave liquids/creams in their original packaging.

**2. Take the bag to a nearby pharmacy!**



The **pharmacist** will provide further instructions. Call in advance to learn about their **take back program!**

# TAKE BACK PROGRAMS

Specific to Ontario

## Ontario Medications Return Program (OMRP)

Accepts expired or unused medications at participating pharmacies.

## Ontario Sharps Collection Program (OSCP)

Handles safe disposal of needles and sharps.



**CLICK TO LEARN MORE**

## Pharmacies Near You!

Learn more about take back programs at your local pharmacy.

**FIND YOUR PHARMACY!**

