WHAT IS IN YOUR MEDICINE CABINET?

Acceptable Items:
- Unused prescription medications
- Expired prescription medications
- Prescription cough syrup
- Prescription eye drops
- Expired over-the-counter medications
- Residential sharps (needles/syringes)

Unacceptable Items:
- Institutional or business waste
- Non-prescription liquids
- Latex gloves
- Household Chemical Waste

General tips:
- Prescription drugs that are more than a year old should be disposed of properly.
- Turn in non-prescription medicines without an expiration date that are more than six months old.
- Keep pharmaceuticals in their original containers with labels to identify contents.
- All sharps need to be placed in a rigid container with a sealed lid. Put the container in a zipped plastic bag prior to dropping off. A new sharps container will be provided.

Dangers of medicine in the water system
Recent research conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Geological Survey found substantial amounts of antibiotics and steroidal hormones in rivers, lakes and wells from samples analyzed in 36 states. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/nerlesd1/chemistry/pharma.

Dangers of needles in trash
According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, each year, 8 million people use more than 3 billion needles, syringes, and lancets, also called sharps, to manage medical conditions at home. Some sharps users throw their used needles in the trash or flush them down the toilet. Used sharps left loose among other waste can hurt sanitation workers during collection rounds, at sorting and recycling facilities and at landfills, or become lodged in equipment, forcing worker to remove them by hand.

Children, adults and even pets are also at risk for needle-stick injuries when sharps are disposed improperly at home or in public settings. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/osw.

Personal Sharps Containers
Any resident that lives in a SWANCC-member community and administers home-injections is eligible to receive a 1 quart sharps container. They need to go to the designated prescription drug drop-off site in their community to request one.

For sources of facts and information, visit www.swancc.org.
SWANCC is providing a new disposal program for prescription drug waste called the Prescription Drug/Sharps Disposal Program.

- Ensure environmental safety
- Guard against potential theft associated with disposing of old medications
- For residentially-generated unused prescriptions, expired over-the-counter drugs, and needles known as “sharps”
- No commercial or institutional waste will be accepted

Visit [www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org), email info@swancc.org or call SWANCC at (847) 724-9205 for participating disposal locations.