



Pharmaceuticals / Unwanted Medication Disposal

For years, most of us have been told to get rid of old or unwanted drugs by flushing them down the toilet or tossing them into the trash. This practice evolved from a desire to keep potentially dangerous drugs out of the hands of others, especially children and potential drug abusers. The simple fact was, at that time, there was no good alternative. Current research is suggesting, however, that the toilet may be the *least environmentally friendly method of disposing of old or unwanted drugs*. As more negative effects from these practices are documented, it has become necessary to develop a better disposal option.

Due to increasing concerns over pharmaceuticals in our surface water, Chisago County provides a program for the disposal of unwanted medications, (over-the-counter, prescription, and animal meds). Chisago County residents may drop off unwanted/unused medications at the following locations:

- **Chisago County Sheriff's Office**, Chisago County Government Center, 313. North Main St., Center City, MN. Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Depository door located on the lower level, next to the Sheriff's office.
- **Chisago County Sheriff's Office**, Rush City - City Hall, 325 S. Eliot Ave., Rush City, MN. Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- **North Branch Police Department**, North Branch City Hall, 6408 Elm. St., North Branch, MN. Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Lower level of North Branch City Hall.

While residents may want to remove any personal information, (e.g., name, address), *please leave the name of the drug on the bottle*. All drop offs will be anonymous and confidential. Follow any special instructions as posted on the depository. The collected pharmaceuticals will be properly destroyed at an approved incinerator. No sharps accepted.

Questions? Comments? Call the Chisago County Household Hazardous Waste Facility at (651-213-8920).