

DISPOSAL OF MEDICAL SHARPS

Improper management of discarded needles and other sharps can pose a health risk to the public and waste workers. Discarded needles may expose waste workers to injuries and potential infection when containers break open inside garbage trucks or needles are mistakenly sent to recycling facilities. Maintenance workers and cleaning staff also risk injury if loose sharps poke through plastic garbage bags.

How to Dispose

Place used sharps into a rigid container, such as a plastic bottle with a lid or a milk carton. Tape the container securely shut and tuck it into the middle of your household trash.

Keep sharps out of the regular waste stream altogether by using special disposal programs, such as:

Holy Cross Hospital Syringe Disposal Program

(a service of Materials Management Program)

1500 Forest Glen Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-754-7121
www.holycrosshealth.org

- Complete an information form.
- Bring full sharps container and receive a new one in exchange.
- Participate at no charge disposal programs.

OTHER RESOURCES FOR SAFE DISPOSAL:

- Ask your health care provider or local pharmacist if they offer or know of safe disposal programs.
- Call the Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services at 240-777-0311 or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/SWS/.
- Visit the Maryland Department of the Environment website for links to state health and solid waste/sanitation department contacts. www.mde.maryland.gov.
- Contact The Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal at 800-643-1643. Ask about the availability of safe disposal programs in this area or for information on setting up a community disposal program. www.safeneedledisposal.org.
- Visit the Center for Disease Control's Safe Community Needle Disposal website. It provides state-by-state summaries of the laws and regulations affecting the labeling, transportation and disposal of used needles and other sharps in the community. www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/disposal.html



Gaithersburg Police Department
14 Fulks Corner Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
301-258-6400
www.gaithersburgmd.gov



Prescription Drop Box



Rid Your Home of Unused/Expired Medications

Gaithersburg Police Department
14 Fulks Corner Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

RID YOUR HOME OF UNUSED/EXPIRED MEDICATIONS

Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue that can lead to accidental poisoning, overdose and abuse. The effort to stop these occurrences begins at home.

Dispose of unused medications safely and securely and keep them away from those at risk of abusing them.



The drop box accepts solid pharmaceuticals including **pills, capsules, patches, and pet medications**. Syringes or liquids will not be accepted.



WHAT TO DROP

- Prescriptions
- Prescription Patches
- Prescription Medications
- Prescription Ointments
- Over-the-Counter Medications
- Vitamins
- Pet Medications

*This is an anonymous service.
No questions will be asked.*

X WHAT NOT TO DROP

- Thermometers
- Inhalers
- Needles (Sharp)
- Epi-Pens
- IV Bags
- Aerosol Cans
- Medication from Businesses or Clinics
- Ointments, Lotions or Liquids
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Trash
- Empty Containers
- Bloody or Infectious Waste
- Supplements



The Gaithersburg Police Department Prescription Drop Box

Accessible:

8 a.m. – 9 p.m., seven days a week

Police Station Lobby
14 Fulks Corner Avenue
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

