

The medicine you pour or flush down your drain may adversely affect local water ways, marine habitat and Sarasota Bay.

PLEASE DO NOT FLUSH UNUSED OR EXPIRED MEDICATIONS DOWN THE TOILET OR POUR THEM DOWN THE DRAIN.

While some physicians used to recommend flushing your unused or unwanted medication down the toilet as a means of disposal, current studies are showing that traces of these medicines are being found in our drinking water and our oceans. "Nearly 4 billion prescriptions are filled in the United States every year, and it has been estimated that as much as a third of the dispensed medication goes unused – leading to potentially 200 million pounds of pharmaceuticals that could adversely affect the environment if disposed of improperly (disposeymeds.com)."



## About Sarasota Bay Estuary Program



The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program is dedicated to restoring our area's most important natural asset - Sarasota Bay.

Our mission is to improve water quality, increase habitat and enhance the natural resources of the area for the use and enjoyment by the public.

The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP) began in June 1989 when Sarasota Bay was designated an "estuary of national significance" by the U.S. Congress as part of the Water Quality Act of 1987. SBEP is one of 28 National Estuary Programs in the United States. The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program is a member of the Association of National Estuary Programs. [www.nationalestuaries.org](http://www.nationalestuaries.org)



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**Disposing Unused  
Or Expired Medications  
HELPFUL GUIDELINES**



**Protect Sarasota Bay**

By properly disposing your medications you can make a difference in our bay and our community.

Where can I dispose of my unused/expired medication?

If necessary, how can I dispose of medication properly in my home?

More than 100 pharmaceuticals have been detected in lakes, rivers, reservoirs and streams throughout the world.

Pharmaceuticals are being detected in the environment and even small concentrations could have an adverse impact on people and marine life including aquatic organisms. (USA Today)

Proper disposal can help. The cheapest and easiest way to limit pharmaceutical contamination is to keep drugs from entering our waterways in the first place. (Americanrivers.org)

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Visit the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program **Medication Take-Back Event** on **November 13, 2010** to drop off your unused and expired medication. The collection event takes place during the **USF Sarasota-Manatee Environmental Fair** at 8350 North Tamiami Trail in Sarasota. **10am-2pm**

Both Sarasota and Manatee county have approved places to throw away your unused medications safely.

**Sarasota County:**

Please bring controlled substances to:

Sarasota County Sherriff's Offices:

2071 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota

4531 State Road 776, Venice

*Drive Up. Drop Off. Drive out. No questions asked.*

For all non-controlled medications visit:

**Environmental Waste Management**

North County-8750 Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota

Central County-4010 Knights Trail Rd., Nokomis

South County- 250 S. Jackson Rd., Venice

**Manatee County:**

Currently there are no collections sites in Manatee County. Stay on the lookout for their medication collection days in partnership with the Manatee County Sheriff's office.

If you cannot find a local take back event or bring it to the sites listed please follow these steps at home. When discarding unused medications, ensure you protect children and pets from potentially negative effects:

1. Pour medication into a sealable plastic bag. If medication is a solid (pill, liquid capsule, etc.), crush it or add water to dissolve it.
2. Add kitty litter, sawdust, coffee grounds (or any material that mixes with the medication and makes it less appealing for pets and children to eat) to the plastic bag.
3. Seal the plastic bag and put it in the trash.
4. Remove and destroy ALL identifying personal information (prescription label) from all medication containers before recycling them or throwing them into the trash.



**USF** Sarasota-Manatee  
**Environmental**  
**Fair** & Medicine Takeback Event

For more information about the campaign please contact Sara Kane at [sara@sarasotabay.org](mailto:sara@sarasotabay.org) or Brittany Gleitsman at [bgleitsm@mail.usf](mailto:bgleitsm@mail.usf).