

# UNWANTED MEDICATION DISPOSAL



Are you throwing unused medications and over-the-counter products down the toilet or the sink? **STOP!**

*Flushing medications down the toilet or sink causes water pollution, impacts drinking water and has adverse effects on septic systems, fish and aquatic life.*

## Safe Ways to Dispose of Medications and OTC Products

1. Follow the **directions below** and **put them in the trash**.
2. The Vernon Police Department located at 725 Hartford Turnpike has a **locked drug drop box** in the lobby available 24/7.

### DIRECTIONS ON HOW TO THROW AWAY IN TRASH:

1. **Keep medication in its original container. Cross out patient's name or remove label.**
2. **Modify the medications to discourage consumption.**
  - For **pills or capsules**: add a small amount of water to partially dissolve them.
  - For **liquid medications**: add salt, flour, charcoal, kitty litter or a powdered spice to make a pungent, unsightly mixture that discourages anyone from eating it.
  - For **blister packs**: wrap pack containing pills in multiple layers of duct tape.
3. **Seal and conceal.**
  - Tape medicine container lid shut with packing/duct tape.
  - Place inside a non-transparent bag or container so it cannot be seen (i.e., an empty yogurt or margarine tub).
  - **Do not** conceal medicines in food products because animals could inadvertently consume them.
4. **Discard the container in your trash cart. Do not put container in with recycling!**



NOTE: Certain chemotherapy drugs may require special handling, so check with your healthcare provider or pharmacist.