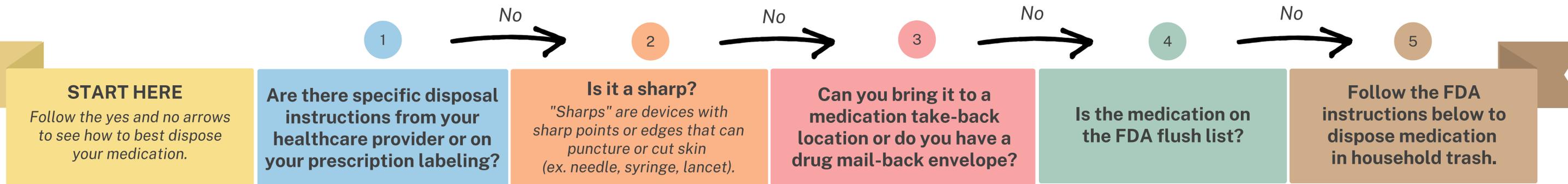


SAFE MEDICATION DISPOSAL



These steps **DO NOT** apply to inhalers or aerosols. Contact your trash and recycling facility to inquire about proper disposal of these products.

1 Follow those disposal instructions.

Check out these FDA resources about prescription drug labeling!
tinyurl.com/drug-labeling

1 Put used sharps into a FDA-approved sharps container or a heavy-duty plastic container (ex. laundry detergent bottle). Bottle should be sturdy, leak-proof, and puncture-resistant.

2 Label the container "Do Not Recycle - Contains Sharps."

3 When the container is 3/4 full, seal the container.

4 Dispose the container at a community sharps disposal program.

Penn Medicine Princeton Medical Center
Capital Health Regional Medical Center in Hopewell

or

Dispose the container in household trash (NOT IN RECYCLING).

Never flush sharps down the toilet. Never throw loose sharps in recycling or household trash.

DO NOT reuse sharps disposal containers.

1 Locate a take-back location. Mercer County Police departments provide anonymous drop boxes.
tinyurl.com/Project-Medicine-Drops

Some pharmacies offer take-back programs. The following website lists DEA-authorized collectors.
tinyurl.com/Drug-Take-Back-Programs

2 Note what kinds of medications are accepted by the program.

3 Bring medication to take-back location.

Drug mail-back envelopes can be purchased. Check your pharmacy, some may offer them at no cost.

1 Fill the drug mail-back envelope with the medicine.

2 Seal the envelope.

3 Mail the envelope using the U.S. Postal Service.

1 Confirm the medication is on the FDA Flush List:
tinyurl.com/FDA-Flush-List

2 Dispose it by **immediately** flushing it down the toilet.

This helps keep everyone in your house safe.

The medications on the FDA Flush List may be especially harmful, even fatal, when taken inappropriately and/or without prescription. They are often sought-after for their misuse and abuse potential.

If your medication is not on the FDA Flush List, DO NOT flush it down the toilet.

1 Scratch out all personal information from the medication bottle and packaging.

2 Remove the medication from its original container.

3 Mix the medications with kitty litter, used coffee grounds, dirt, or sawdust.

4 Put the mixture into a disposable container with a lid (ex. margarine tub, sealable bag) (NOT the original container).

5 Throw away both the mixture and original container into household trash.

Updated April 2025

Sources:

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/ensuring-safe-use-medicine/safe-disposal-medicines>

<https://safeneedledisposal.org/>