

Unwanted Medicine



Storing expired or unwanted medicines in the home can be dangerous. Return them to your local pharmacy **FREE** for safe and environmentally responsible disposal.

A lurking danger

Every year in NSW, more than 3,000 children present to hospital due to accidental poisoning. Medicines account for the majority of cases.

Many of us keep medicines in our home that are out-of-date or no longer needed. Storing expired or unwanted medicines is risky, especially if they fall into the reach of young children or pets. Even vitamins and herbal remedies can be poisonous if consumed in large doses.

Accidental use of outdated medicines can also have serious consequences, such as reduced effectiveness, adverse reactions or even life-threatening conditions. Elderly people are particularly at risk, often accumulating a variety of expired or superceded medication over time.

Proper disposal is important



Incorrect disposal of medicines can harm wildlife and cause environmental damage. They **should never be:**

- ✗ Flushed down the toilet or sink
- ✗ Placed in household bins.

The RUM Project is a national not-for-profit company funded by the Commonwealth Government through the Department of Health. It is not operated or funded by City of Newcastle. *Visit pharmacycycle.com.au for locations where you can recycle empty medicinal blister packs.

How do I get rid of unwanted medicine?

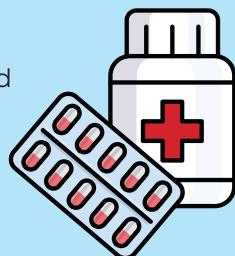
You can dispose of medicines—safely and responsibly—at **any local community pharmacy**. This is a free service available to all Australians through the Return Unwanted Medicines (RUM) project.

You don't need to return medicine to the pharmacy where you bought it.

Note: RUM disposal is not available in hospital pharmacies.

What medicines can I return?

- ✓ Prescription medicines
- ✓ Over-the-counter products
- ✓ Complementary medicines and herbal products
- ✓ Vitamins and supplements
- ✓ Gels, liquids, or topical creams
- ✓ Pet medicines.



What's not accepted?

- ✗ Syringes and other sharps
- ✗ Medication packaging, such as boxes and inserts. You do not need to remove pills from foil strips or blister packs*

What happens to the medicines?

Your pharmacist will put your returned medicines in a secure bin. They will then be safely destroyed (by high-temperature incineration) in line with regulatory and Environmental Protection Authority requirements.

For more information, call **1300 650 835** or visit returnmed.com.au