

# OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET™

**Drop off unwanted or expired medicine  
for safe disposal:**

## PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- North District    ■ Administration  
737 Louden Ave.    10750 Ulmerton Rd.  
Dunedin            Largo  
(727) 582-6900    (727) 582-6200  
*7 a.m. to 11 p.m./7 days*

## TREASURE ISLAND POLICE DEPT.

- 180 - 108th Ave.  
Treasure Island  
(727) 547-4595  
*24 hours/7 days*

- Look for a **Lock Your Meds** box in the lobby area. A law enforcement officer will assist you.
- No information is required or questions asked. The officer will not open any containers.
- This program is for the general public, and not for commercial use, including doctors' offices.
- **Accepted:** Any prescription drug or medicine used for people or pets, including pills, liquids, inhalers, patches and Epi-Pens.
- **Not accepted:** No syringes or medical equipment.
- **Liquid medication:** Secure bottle caps with tape.
- **Other options:** You can also drop off medicine at an Operation Medicine Cabinet event. For upcoming dates and locations, contact the Sheriff's Office at [www.pcsoweb.com](http://www.pcsoweb.com) or (727) 582-6221.
- Medicine will be safely disposed of by incineration.



# Safe Disposal of Household Medicine

**Do NOT flush medicine down the toilet or pour it down the drain!**



## Why shouldn't I flush medicine?

Medicine can interfere with wastewater treatment plant operations. For example, antibiotics can destroy the beneficial bacteria used to treat organic matter. Also, treatment facilities were not designed to remove medications, so medicine could pass through the facility and potentially harm plants or fish downstream or even end up in our water supply.

## What should I do with unwanted or expired medicine?

Take medicine to an Operation Medicine Cabinet drop-off location (see reverse) or dispose of it in the trash.

## Is it safe to throw medicine in the trash?

Yes, but prior to disposal, take a few minutes to secure the medicine to reduce the risk of medication falling into the wrong hands or being mistakenly ingested:



- 1. Package:** Keep medicine in its original container to help identify the contents in case of accidental ingestion.
- 2. Privacy:** Mark out the patient's name and prescription number.
- 3. Treatment:** "Treat" pills by adding water or soda to dissolve them. For liquids, add something absorbent such as cat litter or dirt.
- 4. Seal:** Close the lid and secure with duct or packing tape. Place the bottle inside an opaque (non-see-through) container such as a coffee can or plastic laundry bottle. Tape the container closed.
- 5. Hide:** Conceal the container inside a trash can. Do not place it in a recycle bin.



Pinellas County Utilities Solid Waste  
(727) 464-7500 | [www.pinellascounty.org/utilities](http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities)