

# Drug Disposal: Dispose "Non-Flush List" Medicine in Trash

*Follow these simple steps before trashing medicines that are not on the flush list at home*

If no [drug take back sites, locations, or programs \(/drugs/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know/drug-disposal-drug-take-back-locations\)](#) are available in your area, **and** there are no specific disposal instructions (such as [flushing \(/drugs/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know/drug-disposal-fdas-flush-list-certain-medicines\)](#)) in the [medication guide or package insert \(http://wcms-internet.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/medication-guides\)](#), you can follow these simple steps to dispose of most medicines in your trash at home\*:

1. Mix medicines (liquid or pills; do not crush tablets or capsules) with an unappealing substance such as dirt, cat litter, or used coffee grounds;
2. Place the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag;
3. Throw away the container in your trash at home; and
4. Delete all personal information on the prescription label of empty medicine bottles or medicine packaging, then trash or recycle the empty bottle or packaging.

Follow these simple steps to dispose of medicines in the household trash

**MIX**  
Mix medicines (do not crush tablets or capsules) with an **unpalatable substance** such as dirt, cat litter, or used coffee grounds;

**PLACE**  
Place the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag;

**THROW**  
Throw the container in your household trash;

**SCRATCH OUT**  
Scratch out **all personal information** on the prescription label of your empty pill bottle or empty medicine packaging to make it unreadable, then dispose of the container.

The infographic is divided into four horizontal sections with different background colors: brown, orange, yellow, and light blue. Each section contains a bolded title, a brief instruction, and a small illustration. The 'MIX' section shows pills being mixed with coffee grounds. The 'PLACE' section shows a plastic bag being filled with the mixture. The 'THROW' section shows a trash can with an arrow pointing into it. The 'SCRATCH OUT' section shows a hand using a pen to scratch out information on a pill bottle label.

\*Other technologies which provide additional options for disposing of medicines have been developed.