

# SWANCC

SWANCC provides a disposal program for prescription drug waste called the *Prescription Drug/Sharps Disposal Program* to:

- Ensure environmental safety
- Guard against potential theft associated with disposing of old medications
- For residentially-generated unused prescriptions, expired over-the-counter drugs, and needles known as “sharps”
- No commercial or institutional waste will be accepted
- No pharmaceutical controlled substances will be accepted

Visit [swancc.org](http://swancc.org), call SWANCC at (847) 724-9205 or email [info@swancc.org](mailto:info@swancc.org) for participating disposal locations.



## Programs

Battery Recycling  
CFL Bulb Recycling  
Document Destruction Events  
Electronics Recycling  
Permanent Drop-Off Sites  
One-Day Events  
At Home Pick-Up  
Holiday Lights Recycling  
Mercury Thermometer Recycling  
Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Disposal  
Shoe Reuse and Recycling  
Trashy Fashions Project

## Resources

Books and Media for Loan  
Closing the Loop Brochure  
Eco-Cleaning Guide  
Eco-Friendly Marketplace Guide  
Eco-Friendly Fashion Show – for loan  
Elist for Educators  
Elist for Residents  
Green Pages Directory  
Recycling Etc. Community Newsletter  
Waste Reduction Solutions Brochure

Only residents that live in a SWANCC member community are eligible to participate in the Agency's programs. Resources can be downloaded at [swancc.org](http://swancc.org). Contact SWANCC by emailing [info@swancc.org](mailto:info@swancc.org) or call (847) 724-9205.

**SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF  
NORTHERN COOK COUNTY**  
**swancc.org**



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## SWANCC Prescription Drug/ Sharps Disposal Program



Do not flush old medications  
or put down the drain.



Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County  
(847) 724-9205  
[www.swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org)

# SWANCC's Disposal Program



This program is for residents that live in one of SWANCC's 23 member communities. No prescription drugs or sharps from businesses, schools or hospitals will be accepted. IDs will be checked for verification of residency.

## General tips:

- Prescription drugs that are more than a year old should be disposed of properly.
- Turn in non-prescription medicines without an expiration date that are more than six months old.
- Keep pharmaceuticals in their **original containers** with labels to identify contents.
- Sharps need to be placed in a rigid container with a sealed lid. A new sharps container will be provided.

## Acceptable Items:

- Unused/Expired prescription medications
- Prescription cough syrup
- Prescription ear drops and eye drops
- Expired over-the-counter medications
- Residential sharps (needles/syringes)

## Unacceptable Items:

- Pharmaceutical Controlled Substances\*
- Institutional or business waste
- Non-prescription liquids
- Household Chemical Waste

\*Visit [swancc.org](http://swancc.org) for a list of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) regulated pharmaceuticals.

# For Your Information

## Dangers of medicine in the water system



Recent research conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Geological Survey found substantial amounts of antibiotics and steroidal hormones in rivers, lakes and wells from samples analyzed in 36 states. For more information, visit [epa.gov/ppcp](http://epa.gov/ppcp).

## Dangers of needles in trash



According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, each year, 8 million people use more than 3 billion needles, syringes, and lancets, also called sharps, to manage medical conditions at home. Some sharps users throw their used needles in the trash or flush them down the toilet. Used sharps left loose among other waste can hurt sanitation workers during collection rounds, at sorting and recycling facilities and at landfills, or become lodged in equipment, forcing workers to remove them by hand.

Children, adults and even pets are also at risk for needle-stick injuries when sharps are disposed improperly at home or in public settings. For more information, visit [epa.gov/osw](http://epa.gov/osw).

## Personal Sharps Containers



Any resident that lives in a SWANCC-member community and administers home injections is eligible to receive a 1 quart sharps container. Go to the designated prescription drug drop-off site in your community to request one.

For sources of facts and information, visit [swancc.org](http://swancc.org).

- SWANCC Communities**
- Arlington Heights
  - Barrington
  - Buffalo Grove
  - Elk Grove Village
  - Evanston
  - Glencoe
  - Glenview
  - Hoffman Estates
  - Inverness
  - Kenilworth
  - Lincolnwood
  - Morton Grove
  - Mount Prospect
  - Niles
  - Palatine
  - Park Ridge
  - Prospect Heights
  - Rolling Meadows
  - Skokie
  - South Barrington
  - Wheeling
  - Wilmette
  - Winnetka

Program may be restricted to respective community's residents only. Please visit [swancc.org](http://swancc.org) for a listing of participating locations.

## WHAT IS IN YOUR MEDICINE CABINET?

