

## Proper Disposal of Drugs protects all living things:



- Unused medications improperly disposed by flushing or dissolved in running water down the drain pollutes the water supply
- Flushed drugs are not removed in sewage treatment facilities and septic tank systems—they enter the soil, surface water, and groundwater
- Exposure to drugs found in waterways has a negative impact on fish and other aquatic life
- Pollution prevention—the elimination or minimization of the pollution source— helps clean up the environment
- Unused medication improperly tossed out with the trash is often scavenged and illegally used or sold
- Animals, adults, and children are poisoned by drugs they find in the trash or on the ground
- Improper disposal of prescription and over the counter drugs will harm future generations for decades to come
- Take action now to minimize the threat of unknowingly poisoning humans, animals, or accidentally encouraging drug abuse

## Drug Disposal Locations in Tooele County:

Tooele County Sheriff's Office, 47 South Main Street, Tooele Utah 84074 Phone 435— 882—5600

Grantsville City Offices, 429 East Main, Grantsville Utah 84029  
Phone 435— 884—6881

Tooele County Sheriff's Office  
920 E. Wendover Blvd.  
Wendover, Utah 84083  
Phone 435—665—7010



- Each location will contain a locked, mounted steel collection bin in their lobby
- Envelopes will be available to place prescription bottles and/or drugs in
- Bins will be emptied by a Law Enforcement Officer and burned
- Prescriptions are dropped off anonymously—identification is not required
- Confidentiality of all participants is ensured

**Tooele County Sheriff's Office**  
**47 South Main Street**  
**Tooele Utah 84074**  
**435—882—5600**

**Tooele County Health Department**  
**151 North Main Street**  
**Tooele Utah 84074**  
**435—277—2440**

**R** Proper disposal of Prescription and Over the Counter (OTC) Drugs in Utah



**TOOELE COUNTY**  
**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Visit our Website at  
[www.tooelehealth.org](http://www.tooelehealth.org)

# Drug disposal guidelines for Utah: Do not flush or pour out

## Storing is unwise:

Storing unused or outdated prescriptions creates a dangerous opportunity for illicit drug use



- One in five teens report intentionally misusing someone else's prescription drugs to get high
- Nearly half of these teens say they get the medications from friends and relatives for free or by theft
- Often teens "raid" the medicine cabinet or closet where drugs may be stored



- Teens may attend "pharming parties" where they barter legal drugs and get high
- Teens also trade stolen or bartered drugs at school or other places
- It isn't uncommon for an adult to raid a neighbor's medicine cabinet
- Burglars routinely break into a home to search for, and steal drugs

## DO NOT flush:

- Once considered commonplace, flushing prescription and over the counter drugs down the toilet is dangerous for humans, animals, and the environment



- Some drugs are corrosive to indoor plumbing

## Not down the drain:

- Do not dissolve drugs by running them through tap water and down the drain



## If there is absolutely no other choice:

- Remove all personal identification from the bottle or label—scrape it off with a knife if necessary—then pour unused drugs in a plastic bag, and:
- Mix all unused drugs with used (wet) coffee grounds, moist cat litter, spoiled food, flour mixed with a large amount of salt and water to make a paste, or other undesirable substance and put it in a plastic bag and seal it—make sure it is thoroughly mixed—knead the bag with your hands
- Dispose of it in the trash the same day the trash is collected, don't leave it outside in the container where it can be found
- Seal the empty bottle in a plastic bag and dispose in the trash



## A better choice:

- ◆ Bring unused prescription or over the counter medicine to one of the collection centers mentioned on the back of this brochure
- ◆ Place them in the drop box
- ◆ It isn't necessary to remove the drug from the bottle, but the drug may be placed in a plastic bag and sealed, if preferred
- ◆ The label may be removed or marked out with a marker if desired
- ◆ Drop off remains anonymous - no identification is required
- ◆ Proper disposing of unwanted medications may seem inconvenient at first, but it's important to dispose of these drugs in a responsible and safe manner
- ◆ Misuse of any drug will damage the body— and can be fatal—there is no known antidote for overdose of aspirin

## Other helpful Websites:

<http://www.tooelehealth.org> & follow the links

<http://www.medicationdisposal.utah.gov>

<http://toxics.usgs.gov/regional/emc.html>

[http://www.drugfree.org/Parent/Resources/Prescription\\_Medicine\\_Misuse](http://www.drugfree.org/Parent/Resources/Prescription_Medicine_Misuse)