

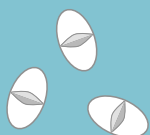


How to properly dispose of pharmaceutical products?

Pharmaceutical products mainly end up in the environment through sewage from private households.

While most of the active pharmaceutical ingredients of drugs are excreted via urine after passing the human body, the incorrect disposal of pharmaceutical products causes an additional entry into the environment.

Help protecting the environment and correctly dispose of your pharmaceutical products!



Special waste collection depot

(In Germany: Schadstoffsammelstelle)

Pharmaceuticals can often get disposed of at special waste collection depots. This makes sense especially for greater amounts or hazardous pharmaceuticals.

Pharmacy



Some pharmacies take back unused pharmaceuticals. Go and ask if you can dispose of your pharmaceuticals there.

Residual waste



Unused or expired pharmaceuticals can be disposed of in the domestic residual waste. Mostly this waste gets burned and biological active substances are getting destroyed

Toilet or sink



Important notice! Never dispose of liquid or solid pharmaceuticals in the toilet or sink. Not all substance can be degraded in wastewater treatment plants and are therefore distributed into rivers and water bodies.



All of the above information are obtained from: Umweltbundesamt (General Environment Agency), Publication "Arzneimittel: NICHT in die Toilette oder Spüle", October 2015

The given information relate to the German waste sorting system. Nevertheless, they are also valid in other countries.

Further information:

- <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/publikationen/arzneimittel-in-der-umwelt-vermeiden-reduzieren>
- <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/publikationen/antibiotika-antibiotikaresistenzen-in-der-umwelt>
- https://www.bfarm.de/DE/Buerger/Arzneimittel/Arzneimittelentsorgung/_node.html
- <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/arzneimittelentsorgung-und-aufbewahrung.html>
- Overview over the regional disposal systems in Germany: <https://arzneimittelentsorgung.de/home/>