



Grundy County Coroner

Medication And Sharps Take-Back Program



John W. Callahan
Grundy County Coroner
1320 Union Street
Morris, IL 60450
Phone: 815-942-3792
Fax: 815-941-3355
Email: jcallahan@grundyco.org

How do Pharmaceuticals Enter the Environment



Pharmaceuticals have been found primarily in discharge from wastewater treatment plants and surface waters. Pharmaceuticals are also released into waterways via runoff from commercial animal feeding operations and aquaculture and from fields where manure and biosolids have been applied.

Expired or unwanted medicines, if flushed down the toilet or drain, are a source of pollution in wastewater. Because sewage treatment plants are not designed to deal with drugs, these chemicals can be released into streams, lakes and groundwater and affect fish and other aquatic wildlife.

You might imagine that any substance safe enough for humans and pets to ingest as medication can't cause environmental harm. However, that may not be the case. If our medicines are reaching streams, rivers and lakes, organisms living in these habitats may be continuously exposed to these drugs. Some aquatic organisms living in waters downstream from wastewater treatment plants are showing signs of developmental and reproductive problems. Researchers are working to determine whether pharmaceuticals are causing these effects.

The Three Main Hazards Are:

1. Possible poisoning from accidental ingestion, particularly among young children and pets, if medicines are thrown in the trash.
2. Illegal use or theft, including identity theft from discarded containers providing personal patient information.
3. Contamination of water resources, which can result in reproductive and developmental problems in fish and other aquatic wildlife if medicines are flushed or placed in the trash.



Thank you for making Grundy County a safe place to live.



ITEMS ACCEPTED

- Expired or Unwanted:
 - Prescription Medications
 - Over-the-Counter Medications
 - Medicated Ointments
 - Medicated Shampoos
 - Liquids Containing Medications
 - Prescription Inhalers
 - Over-the-Counter Inhalers
 - Sharps in Proper Containers

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

- Radioactive Materials
- Other Household Wastes

Disposal Dos and Don'ts

Do:

1. Return unwanted/expired medicines to pharmacies and other locations participating in take-back programs
2. Bring only residentially generated medication items.
3. Please follow directions at the drop-off site. Only give medications to the pharmacy or drop-off site personnel.
4. This is not a share or reuse opportunity. All medications received will be destroyed in the most environmentally sound manner possible.
5. Bring Sharps in Appropriate Containers

Do Not:

1. Flush down the sink drain or toilet.
2. Place in the trash.
3. Give or sell to others



Please be aware that the Grundy County Coroner's Office will destroy labels and recycle the medical containers they receive through the Grundy County Coroner's Take-Back Program.

Drop Off Sites

Morris Healthmart
2405 Sycamore Drive
Morris, IL 60450

Morris Jewel-Osco Pharmacy
1414 North Division Street
Morris, IL 60450

Minooka Pharmacy
508 West Mondamin Street
Minooka, IL 60447

Coal City Pharmacy
175 South Broadway Street
Coal City, IL 60416

Grundy County Coroner's Office
1320 Union Street
Morris, IL 60450