



## ECO-FRIENDLY MEDICINE DISPOSAL NOW AT PHARMACA

Pharmaca is excited to announce the extension of our pharmaceutical “take back” program to all stores. That means it’s time to clean out the cabinets and bring in your unused or expired medications for eco-friendly disposal by an FDA-approved company.

### DRUGS IN OUR WATER

A recent AP investigation found that an estimated **46 million Americans consume drinking water contaminated with pharmaceuticals**. Other studies have shown similarly troubling results, such as the U.S. Geological Survey’s 2002 report on waterway contamination due to pharmaceutical and personal care products. This particular analysis found **drugs like antibiotics, antidepressants, hormones and painkillers present in 80 percent of the water supplies tested**.

While some of this contamination is a natural by-product of human excretion, much of it results from the improper disposal of unused and expired medications. Discarding these products by flushing or throwing them away allows their chemical components to persist in local water supplies.

### OUT OF YOUR CABINET

Pharmaca’s program will send returned medications to an incineration facility, where high temperatures break down chemicals and emissions are capped and treated. The World Health Organization recommends high temperature incineration as the best method for disposal.

Pharmaca has piloted the green pharmacy program in Berkeley, Monterey, and Oakland over the past year in collaboration with the Teleosis Institute. **Together, these locations have collected over 700 lbs of medications**. We hope the enormous success, community response, and environmental impact shared by those stores will be greatly magnified with the program’s growth.

Please use the guide on the right to keep unused medications out of your cabinets, and out of our water supply.



Our Monterey pharmacy collects a full bin of medications for eco-friendly disposal.

## WASTE ACCEPTED

- ⌘ Prescription medications
- ⌘ All over-the-counter medications
- ⌘ Sharps including needles and syringes
- ⌘ Prescription suppositories
- ⌘ Medication samples
- ⌘ Pet medications
- ⌘ Expired vitamins and supplements
- ⌘ Medicated ointments, lotions, creams and oils
- ⌘ Liquid medication in leak-proof containers