

PHARMACEUTICALS

Pharmaceuticals are chemical formulations used for diagnosing, curing, mitigating, treating, or preventing diseases in humans or animals. A pharmaceutical becomes waste when it can no longer be administered to a patient and must be discarded. Waste pharmaceuticals must be accumulated in a way that prevents any release. They should be stored in containers that remain closed except when adding or removing waste, and these containers must be labeled with the words "Universal Waste Pharmaceuticals."



The container must be structurally sound, compatible with the waste, and free from any signs of leakage, spillage, or damage that could lead to leakage under foreseeable conditions. If a container fails to meet these standards, it should be overpacked in a container that does. Incompatible pharmaceuticals must be kept separated by a sufficient distance to prevent contact between incompatible materials. If a release of pharmaceuticals or their components occurs, it must be cleaned up immediately and properly characterized for disposal. Spill and cleanup waste cannot be managed as Universal Waste-Pharmaceuticals.

Never dispose of pharmaceuticals down the drain. As of August 21, 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has implemented new rules that prohibit this practice. These regulations were established to safeguard drinking water and surface water.

Donated Pharmaceuticals/Simulated Medications

Never accept donated pharmaceuticals from local healthcare providers, institutions, or vendors for use or for educational purposes. These medications are often expired, leading to significant disposal costs for the organization. Moreover, expired medications could be mistakenly interchanged with unexpired ones and used inappropriately. It is recommended to purchase simulated medications and supplies designed for educational purposes. These simulated medications contain no active ingredients, which prevents them from being classified as Universal Waste-Pharmaceuticals.



To dispose of waste pharmaceuticals, please submit an online pickup request using the EH&S Chemical/Bio Waste Pickup Request form available at:

<https://csn.campusoptics.com/hw/chemical-bio-waste-pick-up-request-form>. Please contact EH&S at 702-651-7445 or ehs@csn.edu if you have any questions.