



GREEN PHARMACY PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do you accept?

- All non controlled, non hazardous medications, this includes vitamins/supplements and homeopathic remedies, creams, oils, ointments, suppositories, etc., for information, consult lists or pharmacists

How do I bring the pills back to you?

- We can accept pills in any packaging, including glass, plastic container or baggie, or foil
- Keep in mind that it is only legal for the original owner to return his/her medicines

Can I bring back inhalers?

- Only if they're empty

Do you recycle the bottles?

- Some of our sites will sort bottles for recycling, unfortunately, not all bottles are recyclable in all cities
- If you choose to recycle the packaging at home, depending on which site (please call ahead), you may be able to put your medicines in a plastic bag and bring them to the site.
- Vitamin, supplement, and over-the-counter packaging are generally recyclable (#1 & #2 plastics, glass, and paper)
- Consult bottom of container for information on number plastic, and look to see recycling options in your area

Are there statistics for me to look at?

- For the first year of Green Pharmacy, we collected data on medicines returned. The preliminary six-month report is available at www.greenpharmacyprogram.com. We will publish our year-long report soon

Where are your locations?

- Green Pharmacy has sites nationwide. They are listed at www.teleosis.org/gpp-locations.php and also at www.earth911.com

Why do you collect our information?

- Some sites may collect information to determine relevant statistics such as: most common drug returned, most common reason for disposal, etc. Data is submitted to Community Medical Foundation for Patient Safety in Texas
- Data will be sent to pharmaceutical companies, manufactures, as well as government agencies in order to raise awareness about the significance of unwanted pharmaceuticals in the waste stream, and build support for take-back programs nationwide

How can I protect my privacy?

- A permanent marker is available to mark out your personal information
- Some sites shred and recycle bottles, which also destroys personal information
- Sites that do collect information on medicines will never record your personal information; only the zip code, name of medicine, dosage, quantity returned, reason for purchase and return are collected

What do you do with the medications?

- The medications are incinerated. Some incineration facilities are waste-to-energy meaning that the destruction process generates electricity used by the local community
- Currently, incineration is the most environmentally safe technology for the safe disposal of medications. The process is highly regulated by EPA, and significantly minimizes contamination of air particles compared with other medication destruction methods.
- We do our best to recycle packaging materials. The incineration facility takes all the steps necessary to ensure that the byproducts of incineration are trapped and not released into the atmosphere.

Visit our website to learn more: www.greenpharmacyprogram.com

For more information, please contact us at info@teleosis.org, 510-558-7285