

## Take Back Events

The Portage County Solid Waste Department has recently held pharmaceutical collections where residents can bring in their medication for disposal free of charge.

These events are possible due to support from multiple county agencies, as well as time and services provided by local law enforcement and pharmacists.

The Portage County Coalition for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention will likely continue to hold collection events. The drop-off box is now another, permanent option for those who wish to use it.



## Safe Medication Management and Disposal

Portage County  
Solid Waste Dept.

"Nothing in nature  
is exhausted in its  
first use."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



Portage County  
Solid Waste Dept.

600 Moore Road  
Plover, WI 54467

Phone: 715-345-5969  
Fax: 715-345-5971  
[www.co.portage.wi.us](http://www.co.portage.wi.us)

## Proper disposal benefits us all!

Prescription and over-the-counter medicines are becoming more and more prevalent in our society. That means there is also more medicine that needs to be disposed of because it is unused, unwanted or expired.

It is important to dispose of medication properly. Doing so protects not only the environment but also all residents.

Flushing pharmaceuticals down the drain or putting them in the trash may contaminate ground and surface waters. For example, a 1999-2000 study by the United States Geological Survey showed chemicals and hormones from medications were present in 80 percent of the streams they tested.



Other studies suggest a correlation between the medications in the water and negative effects on and changes to wildlife like fish.

In addition, having excess medication around could increase the risk of theft of these items or the risk of drug abuse.

### How to reduce the risk:

Purchase or ask doctors to prescribe a reasonable amount—especially of pain and cold medicines, which have a high rate of abuse or are used to make other drugs.

### How to properly dispose of pharmaceuticals:

First, check to see if there is a take-back event coming up.

If not, dispose of medications in the 24-hour, 7-day-a-week drop off box located near the Stevens Point Police Department Dispatch Center, in the basement of the city building, 1515 Strongs Ave.

Both options allow for the disposal of prescription or over-the-counter medicines. However, please do not bring in syringes/needles, nebulizers (inhalers) or radioactive medicines.



## Be Safe

Remember, all medicines — whether they are prescription or over-the-counter — are poisons in the right circumstances and the right dosages.

Make sure to follow all directions from your doctor and pharmacist, or those that are printed on the label or box.

Keep medicines in a safe location in your house, out of the reach of children.

Portage County  
Solid Waste Dept.

600 Moore Road  
Plover, WI 54467

Phone: 715-345-5969  
Fax: 715-345-5971  
www.co.portage.wi.us