Free Medication Collection

Bayfield County will hold free medication collections at the hazardous waste collection events on:

Saturday, July 21, 2018
8:00 AM – 11:00 AM
at the County Highway Garage in Washburn
and
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
at the Iron River Community Center in Iron River

Household pharmaceuticals accepted at the collection events include prescription and over-the-counter medications such as:

Pills	**Creams**
Capsules	**Inhalers**
Ointments	**Vials**
Liquids	**Drops**
Sprays	

Please note that **No** radioactive or chemotherapy medications will be accepted. Also, we **Cannot Accept** sharps, syringes, IV bags or tubing. Please contact your health provider for disposal options for those materials.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bayfield County Emergency Management Office at 373-6113

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There are several important reasons to bring pharmaceuticals to collection events. Up until now, most people have either thrown medications in the trash, flushed them down the toilet or burned them with their trash in a burn barrel. Utilizing these options present several environmental problems.

Flushing of medications into the wastewater system means that ultimately these drugs will find their way into our lakes, rivers and streams. Many medications, when introduced into our natural waters, can lead to reproductive and developmental problems in fish and other aquatic wildlife. Studies have been done confirming these results.

Burning medications is illegal according to state law, because of the chemical pollutants that can be emitted from burning.

Trashing medications can also ultimately result in water contamination because the chemicals break down when water (rain) percolates through the landfill layers. This liquid, called leachate, is typically pumped out of landfills at some point and treated at wastewater treatment plants. The chemicals often make it through these wastewater plants and then find their way back into our natural waters.