

# Options for Proper Drug Disposal

Proper disposal of unwanted or expired medications, vitamins and supplements is the right thing to do. Disposing of prescription and over-the-counter medications, including vitamins and supplements, by pouring them down the drain or flushing them down the toilet can cause environmental harm. Medications placed in garbage cans can scatter and pollute the soil and groundwater at the landfill; there is also the risk of people stealing the medications placed in the garbage, or accidental ingestion by children or pets.

## **Disposal Option # 1: Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Facility**

Take **non-controlled**<sup>1</sup> medications to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 5584 La Ribera Street in Livermore. The facility is open Friday's and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m to 4 p.m. No appointment is necessary but you may wish to call ahead or check their website for any schedule changes.

Toll-free: 1-877-STOPWASTE

Website: [www.stopwaste.org](http://www.stopwaste.org)



**Directions:** Hwy 580 to Vasco Road exit. Vasco Road south to Brisa Street. Right on La Ribera Street to facility.

## **Disposal Option # 2: Nearby Drug Collection Location**

Visit [www.baywise.org](http://www.baywise.org) to find a nearby location that accepts unwanted medications.

<sup>1</sup> Some medications are classified by the Drug Enforcement Agency as “controlled” substances based on their medical use, abuse, addiction potential, and harmfulness. Examples include OxyContin, morphine, Ritalin, anabolic steroids, valium and codeine. For a full listing, visit [http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules/orangebook/c\\_cs\\_alpha.pdf](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules/orangebook/c_cs_alpha.pdf). Be sure to follow any special disposal instructions on the label or in accompanying patient information. Visit [www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org](http://www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org) for collection locations that accept “controlled” substances in addition to non-controlled medications. If you are uncertain about whether you have a “controlled” medication, consult your physician or pharmacist.