

The Return Unwanted Medicines (RUM) Project

The RUM Project is run by a not-for-profit company, The National Return and Disposal of Unwanted Medicines Limited.(ABN 79 082 171 663)

The project enables consumers to return unwanted or out-of-date medicines to any pharmacy, at any time.

The RUM Project has equipped pharmacies throughout Australia with large yellow containers for collection.

The returned medicines are transported for safe disposal.

The project is supported by pharmacists across Australia and funded by the Commonwealth Government to provide for collection and destruction of returned medicines.



The project is supported by :

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Commonwealth Government of Australia

Council on the Ageing

Australian Institute of Environmental Health

*Funded by The Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing*



Return Unwanted Medicines

For further information on the RUM Project please phone 1300 650 835 or visit www.returnmed.com.au

Postal Address:
PO Box 2856
CHELTENHAM VIC 3192

Telephone: 03 9583 8699
Facsimile: 03 9583 8533

Return your unwanted medicines to your pharmacy



Return Unwanted Medicines (RUM): The solution to Medicine Waste

Why your medicine cabinet can be a health hazard

Most of the medicines in our medicine cabinet we need, but what about the yellow pills in a jar that's lost its label, and the eye drops with the crystals growing around its seal? And what was so wrong that we were prescribed Quivinox B-Sulphamate?

Old medicines lying around the home 'just in case' are dangerous...

- ✓ If taken when they're out-of-date
- ✓ If taken when not prescribed for you
- ✓ If in reach of little prying fingers

In an average week, around 50 Aussie kids are admitted to hospital after swallowing medicines not intended for them.

The RUM Project provides the safest and easiest way to dispose of unwanted and out-of-date medicines.

It makes possible the return of all household medicines to any pharmacy at anytime - for free and safe collection and disposal.



Think before you throw

Unwanted medicines are often dumped into the toilet, tipped down the sink or put out with the garbage, which starts a journey that can seriously harm the environment.

More than 300 tonnes of medicines find their way into waterways and landfill every year.

We need to change our behaviours to solve this problem and give the environment a chance.



⚠ Don't flush medicines down the toilet.

Sewerage plants can't treat all chemicals in waste water, resulting in contamination of waterways.



⚠ Don't pour medicines down the sink.

Household medicines contain highly soluble chemicals which when entered into water systems can harm aquatic life.



⚠ Don't throw medicines into the garbage bin.

Household medicines disposed this way end up in exposed landfill sites.

RUM provides a far better alternative

By returning out-of-date and unwanted medicines to our local pharmacy, we can make our home a safer place. Help safeguard our community and protect our environment.

This is all we need to do... it really is easy



Step 1: sort through your medicine cabinet and drawers, putting to one side the out-of-date and unwanted medicines



Step 2: take them to your local pharmacy



Step 3: give them to your pharmacist for proper disposal, and...



Step 4: tell your friends and relatives about the RUM project.

