

Prescription Drug Disposal Transcript

[Sounds of prescription medicine being packaged.]

[Stefany Strong, Reporter] "At some point, more than likely every Volusia County family has prescription drugs around the house. But do you know how to properly dispose of your expired or unused medicine?"

[Jacke Towle, Lab Administrator] "Some of our hospice workers are telling family members when another family member passes on with the leftover drugs to mark out the names and flush them down the toilets, and that's really not a good thing to do because it can accumulate in the environment."

[Stefany Strong, Reporter] "Seven steps to safety.

1. "Keep medicine in original container."
2. "Mark out your name and prescription number for safety."
3. "Dissolve pills in water."
4. "Use cat litter or dirt in liquid medicine."
5. "Close the lid and secure with duct or packing tape."
6. "Place bottles inside opaque container like a coffee can and tape close."
7. "Hide container in trash - do not put in recycle bin."

[Sound of pills being dumped into toilet.]

[Jack Towle, Lab Administrator] "Instead of flushing them down the toilet, if it's a caplet, put a little soda in there, or water to dissolve it. If it's a liquid, put a little maybe cat litter or some coffee grounds and what you want to do is mark out the name and the prescription number and then tape that container and then put it in an opaque container like a coffee can or something and then put that in the trash, so it goes to the landfill, not down the toilet."

[Sound of opening a pill container.]

[Jack Towle, Lab Administrator] "This is an emerging concern for us so if we can stop this practice early on, we can prevent it from becoming a problem for us

[Stefany Strong, Reporter] "You can keep your family safe with these tips: "Remember, do not give your drugs to anyone, do not flush your drugs, and do not throw your drugs away without disguising them first."

[Sound of pills being poured into a glass container.]

"For Volusia Magazine and on behalf of the Volusia County Health Department, your guide to better health, I'm public information officer, Stefany Strong."