



**SOUTH BAY
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CENTER**
South Bay Cities Council of Governments



**Saving
Water,
Energy,
Money
and the
Environment**

As our partners at the Sanitation Districts of LA County will tell you, once it was common practice to flush medications (also known as pharmaceuticals) down the toilet. Your doctor or pharmacist may have even directed you to do this. We know now that these substances are bad for our environment - the ground, water, and air around us.

No Drugs Down the Drain **Disposing unused, unwanted, and expired medications**

The Sheriff's Station Drop Boxes, which are recycled mailboxes, look like the white boxes below to the left. The Manhattan Beach drop box is the white and red one below to the right. There will be no questions asked, just bring the items in a closed container or plastic bag and drop them off in their appropriate bin

So, what should you do? **You may dispose of them at the following locations:**

- ✓ **Manhattan Beach Police Department**
420 15th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.
310-802-5100 Drop box location: in parking lot next to library book drop
- ✓ **Gardena Police Department** 1718 West 162nd Street, Gardena, CA 90247. 310-217-9670 Drop box location: green box outside lobby door next to vending machine
- ✓ **Lomita Sheriff's Station** 26123 Narbonne Avenue, Lomita, CA 90717. 310-539-1661 Drop box location: outside main door
- ✓ **Carson Sheriff's Station** 21356 S. Avalon Boulevard, Carson, CA 90745. 310-830-1123 Drop box location: outside main door at top of steps
- ✓ **South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station**
1310 W. Imperial Highway, Los Angeles, CA 90044 (323) 820-6700 Drop box location: outside main door





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A DANGEROUS COCKTAIL FOR OUR OCEANS IS CREATED WHEN UNUSED DRUGS ARE NOT DISPOSED OF PROPERLY

In the past, it was accepted practice to flush unused, unwanted and expired medications down the toilet. That is no longer the case. A combination of pharmaceuticals, including prescription drugs such as hormones, antidepressants, and antibiotics, as well as over-the-counter medicines such as pain relievers, cold/flu remedies and antiseptics and veterinary medicines combine to make a dangerous cocktail for our oceans. In the South Bay – Manhattan Beach and Gardena - as well as the Los Angeles County Sheriff are participating in a creative solution to this environmental problem.

South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) working through its Environmental Services Center (SBESC) reminds those who have unused or expired drugs and medications that there are several safe South Bay locations to drop them off. At the city and county police stations, there are boxes located where unused legal drugs and medications can be deposited at any hour.

One of the SBCCOG's partners at the South Bay Environmental Services Center is the Los Angeles County Sanitation District through their program "No Drugs Down the Drain". The SBCCOG staff went to the City of Manhattan Beach Police Department to better understand how the program worked. Manhattan Beach was the first city in the South Bay to deploy safe drop off containers for unused and/or expired medications, "Once we learned the details" stated Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG Executive Director "we went to Sheriff Lee Baca who embraced the program and took it to the next level by creating the County's Safe Drug Drop off program which includes taking legal drugs as well as illegal drugs and sharps." In the true spirit of recycling, retired U.S. Postal boxes were re-used for the Safe Drug Drop off program.

The City of Gardena, through their Police Department, has also adopted the Manhattan Beach model of accepting legal unused drugs and medications.



To learn more about this topic or saving energy, water, money and the environment call 310-371-7222, visit our website www.sbesc.com or visit our office located at 20285 S. Western Ave., Suite 100 Torrance, CA 90501