

## New take back program for home generated non-controlled pharmaceuticals, endorsed by the Orange County Pharmacists Association uses Curbside's drop box and disposal system.

Residents of Orange County now have a new method to safely dispose of their unwanted, unneeded prescription and over-the-counter non-controlled pharmaceuticals. Numerous studies have confirmed that disposal of pharmaceuticals into the environment have caused illness and genetic abnormalities in both fish and humans. Flushing pharmaceuticals down the drain is no longer considered the preferred method of disposal.

In cooperation with local government agencies, the Orange County Pharmacists Association has encouraged members to begin accepting waste pharmaceuticals from the public. Responding to a growing customer requests for a safe and secure method for waste medicine disposal, the Association has approved a unique program, designed to allow individuals to visit their local participating pharmacies and deposit their non-controlled pharmaceuticals into a specially designed drop-box. The program is self-service. For those who are not sure if their waste contains controlled substances, there is a list derived from the U.S. DEA attached to the drop-box for review.

Participating pharmacies are contracting with Curbside Inc., a local Orange County based company that specializes in managing pharmaceutical waste, to provide both the drop boxes and disposal services.



Pharm and Sharps Drop Boxes

Four pharmacies in Orange County, CA have already agreed to participate in the program and each will accept all non-controlled medicines from households (no medical professionals) at no cost to the participant. In addition to pills and capsules, residents may dispose of non-controlled pharms in liquids, squeeze tubes, and foil packs.

Residents can take their waste non-controlled pharmaceuticals to the participating pharmacies and drop them into the drop-box.

*The box is built of rolled steel and secured with two locks so that it cannot be opened without two keys supplied by Curbside Inc. and the pharmacy.*



Jack Silberstein, owner of Grove Harbor Medical Center



When the box is full, the waste is destroyed on site with Curbside's exclusive process and shipped for final incineration.

The first pharmacy to join the program is owned by pharmacist Jack Silberstein, a member of the OCPHA Board of Directors. His pharmacy, **Grove Harbor Medical Center Pharmacy**, [www.Groveharborrx.com](http://www.Groveharborrx.com), is located in Garden Grove, CA. Jack allows the public to bring in sharps (placed inside rigid, sealed containers) as well as non-controlled pharmaceuticals.

**Watson's Drug Store**, [www.Watsondrug.com](http://www.Watsondrug.com), located in Orange, CA has been serving the public at the historic Orange traffic circle for more than 100 years. The public is welcome to drop off their unwanted non-controlled pharms and sharps.



Store Front of Famous Watson's Drug Store

Watson's Drug Store and Grove Harbor Medical Center Pharmacy are supporting the cost of this program on their own as a public service.

"We know that our customers want to do the right thing with their waste medicines, it is important that we provide this service to them", stated Jack Silberstein of Grove Harbor Medical Center Pharmacy.

The **Costa Mesa Sanitary District is a co-sponsor of the program** by providing financial assistance for the drop-boxes located at **Save Our Selves**, [www.Shareourselves.org](http://www.Shareourselves.org), (a community health care provider) and at **Costa Mesa Compounding Pharmacy**, [www.Costamesapharmacy.com](http://www.Costamesapharmacy.com), both located in Costa Mesa, CA. They will also accept non-controlled pharmaceuticals and sharps from the public at no charge.

These pioneering pharmacies are just the start of this program which will continue to expand in Orange County providing even more opportunities for the public to dispose of waste medicines. Proper disposal of unneeded medicines can help to reduce potential abuse or accidents. The waste is incinerated in a regulated facility preventing any potential damage to the water supply.

Curbside Inc. has created this unique program for the collection of home generated non-controlled pharmaceuticals and sharps specifically for public agencies, pharmacies, non-profits and businesses to offer collection opportunities to the public.

At no time does any employee or person other than the participating resident handle the waste materials. Curbside destroys them before leaving the property to ensure that they can never again be used. This process is witnessed by the store or facility supervisor.

The program was designed to avoid some of the pitfalls of early programs where some pharmacy employees actually handled the waste materials in violation of state board of pharmacy rules. Patient confidentiality is preserved since at no time does any person touch any medicine containers.

Curbside Inc. has installed home generated non-controlled pharmaceutical drop-boxes at other public facilities. View the California Integrated Waste Management Board web site for more drop-off locations.