



Animal
Medicines
Australia



Veterinary medicine disposal: Information sheet for vets



AgSAFE's ChemClear® program and the RUM Project provide safe and sustainable pathways for your clients to dispose of unwanted or expired veterinary medicines responsibly.

WHY IS RESPONSIBLE DISPOSAL OF VETERINARY MEDICINES IMPORTANT?

Unwanted medicines in the home and on farms are a potential hazard to young and old. Accidental poisonings from medicines are a common reason for hospitalisation and premature death.

It is important your clients are aware that expired animal medicines should not be stored for later use or used in other animals, as they

may no longer be effective and could have adverse effects.

Unwanted medicines, both human and animal, should be disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner.

HOW CAN VETERINARIANS AND NURSES HELP?

Every time you speak with a pet owner or farmer about medicines, or prescribe a medication to an animal, there is an opportunity to talk about what they should do with any unwanted medicines and tell them about ChemClear® and the RUM Project.

Brochures can be downloaded from the Animal Medicines Australia website and placed in your clinic for your clients to read.

Ask your client if they have any animal medicines at home or on their farm that they no longer need. ▶ *continued over page*



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◀ If yes or unsure, encourage them to review their medicines and dispose of any that have expired, or they no longer need responsibly, via the most appropriate program.

By taking just two minutes to discuss disposal options for veterinary medicines with your clients, you can help the animal health sector ensure veterinary medicine waste is disposed of responsibly and sustainably.

DISPOSING OF UNWANTED VETERINARY MEDICINES THROUGH CHEMCLEAR®

ChemClear® is a national product stewardship program that provides a safe option for disposing of larger amounts (more than 200 ml/g) of unwanted or obsolete agricultural chemicals, including veterinary medicines, responsibly.

Your clients can register any unwanted and expired animal medicines that meet the ChemClear® eligibility criteria for collection at <https://www.chemclear.org.au/> or call toll free on 1800 008 182.

Group 1 chemicals are collected FREE*. These chemicals are either currently registered agvet chemicals that carry the drumMUSTER logo, or products that expired or registration ceased within two years. Check online for detailed eligibility criteria to see if the product is eligible for free collection.

Group 2 chemicals are those chemicals that are no longer registered, unknown, unlabelled, out of date or mixed agvet chemicals. A fee per L/kg applies for disposal of Group 2 chemicals unless a state government subsidy is in place.

**Reseller policy applies*

Register via the ChemClear website and continue to store the chemicals you have registered with ChemClear safely and securely. ChemClear will contact you directly to advise the location and date of the collection point in your local government area. ChemClear uses phone, email, SMS, website updates and social media opportunities to keep registrants informed of the program and collection scheduling.

DISPOSING OF UNWANTED VETERINARY MEDICINES THROUGH THE RUM PROJECT

Your clients can return their unwanted and expired animal medicines that meet the RUM Project eligibility criteria to their local pharmacy for free and the pharmacist will put the medicines into the RUM bin.

The RUM Project is funded by the Commonwealth Government. All medicines collected in RUM bins are incinerated at an Environment Protection Authority (EPA) accredited facility - high temperature incineration is the EPA recommended method of disposal of medicines.

RUM bins are not the place to dispose of any unwanted rubbish. It is preferred that all packaging is placed into the appropriate recycling or rubbish bin.

The following table is a guide to what types of animal medicines can or cannot be disposed of via a RUM bin:

Suitable for placing in RUM bin

- Oral medicines - tablets, capsules, chewables etc.
- Mixtures
- Cytotoxic medicines
- Cream, ointments, gels
- Nasal sprays, drops
- Eye drops, ointments
- Ear drops, ointments
- Unused injectables
- Inhalers that still contain active ingredients
- Unused insulin pen fills or pens
- Any over the counter medicines
- Medicated shampoos etc.

Unacceptable in RUM bin

- Medicines eligible for Agsafe's ChemClear® program (check for drumMUSTER logo)
- Empty packaging, including inhalers
- Sharps
- Used blood testing strips
- Used injectables
- Household poisons
- Used bandages or dressings
- Compounded chemotherapy medicines e.g. IV
- Unmedicated shampoos etc.
- Vaccine delivery systems

📄 MORE INFORMATION

[Frequently Asked Questions | Return of Unwanted Medicine \(returnmed.com.au\) ChemClear](#)

[AMA website - waste management page](#)

