

Residues of pharmaceutical compounds are found everywhere in the environment

In Germany, pharmaceuticals have been detected in rivers, soils, plants, animals, but also in groundwater and occasionally even in drinking water.

Although concentrations in the environment are low, scientific studies show negative effects on environmental organisms. Hormones from contraceptives, for example, affect the reproduction of frogs even at very low concentrations. Antidepressants can trigger behavioural disorders in fish.

Even if according to current knowledge effects on human health can be ruled out, it is imperative to take action in line with the precautionary principle and to reduce the input of pharmaceuticals into the environment.

How do pharmaceuticals enter the environment?

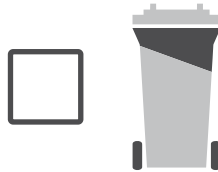
Residues of human pharmaceuticals mainly enter the environment with domestic wastewater, as most pharmaceutical compounds are partly excreted by the body after use. Sewage treatment plants cannot retain all substances contained in wastewater. The treated water may thus still contain pharmaceutical residues, which will enter water bodies with the effluent of the wastewater treatment plant.

The improper disposal of unused or expired medicines via the toilet or sink represents an additional and unnecessary input of these compounds into the environment.

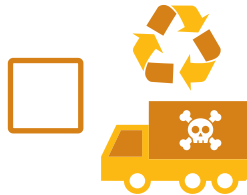
By disposing of residues of medicines correctly, you can therefore make a significant contribution to protecting the environment.

Correct disposal of leftover medicines in:

– County / City –



Domestic waste



Mobile hazardous waste unit or recycling centre

– Address –



Pharmacy

– Pharmacy Stamp –

Several disposal options may be available in your region. Check for your region at:
www.arzneimittelsorgung.de



Do NOT dispose of drugs in the toilet or sink



German Environment Agency

Umwelt Bundesamt

Correct disposal of leftover drugs!

Unused or expired drugs tend to accumulate in every household. For the protection of people and the environment, it is important to dispose of them in an environmentally sound manner.

The map on the right shows the recommended disposal in your county or city to properly dispose of unused or expired medicines.

This is how you can dispose of medicines in these counties and cities:



Domestic waste

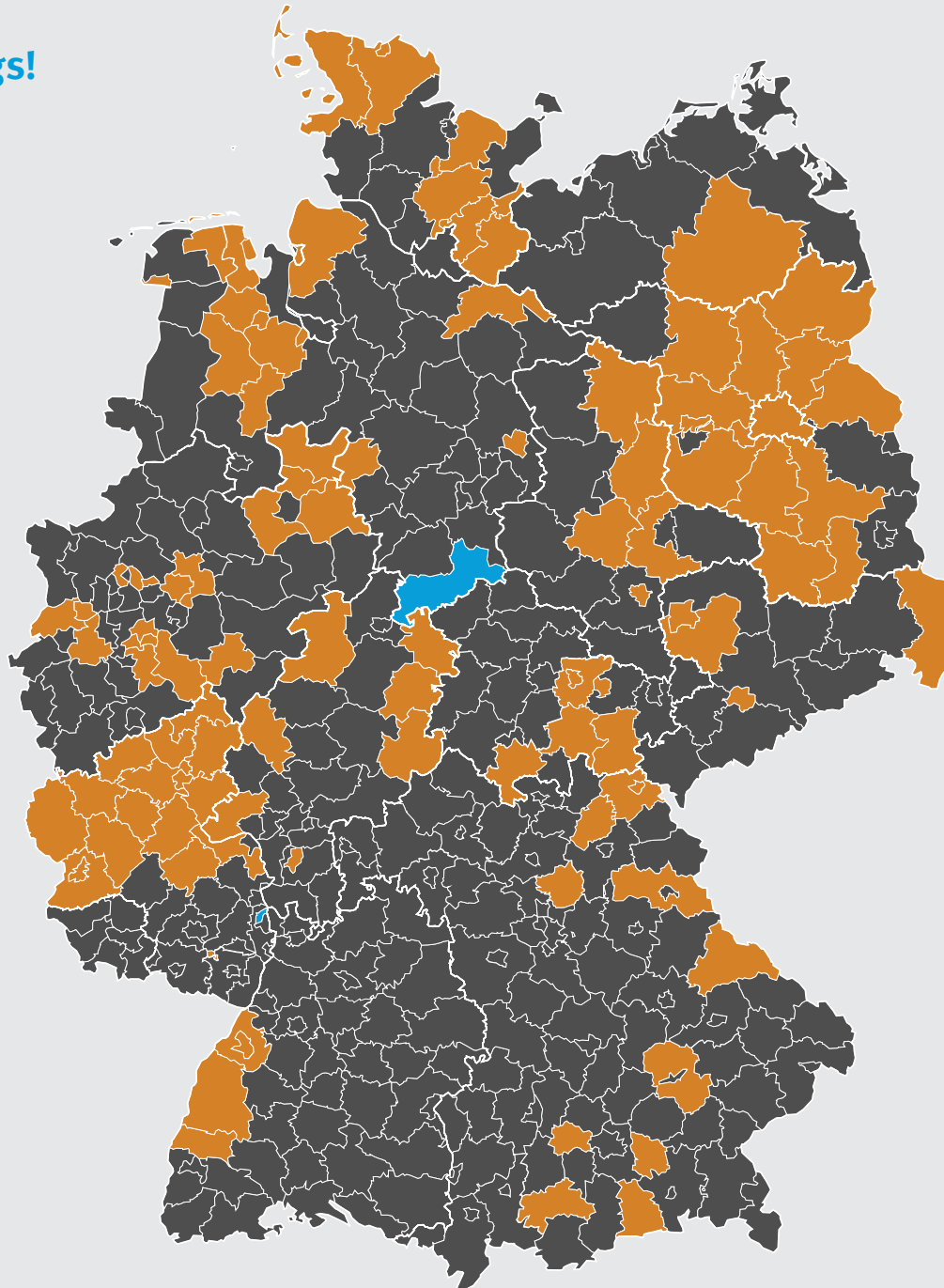


Mobile hazardous waste unit or recycling centre



Pharmacy

In the county of Göttingen and in Frankenthal (Pfalz), residues of medicines can only be disposed of through pharmacies.



To protect water bodies and drinking water, do NOT dispose of pharmaceuticals in the toilet or sink.

If disposed of correctly, the pharmaceutical substances are destroyed by incineration of the waste and no longer pose a threat to the environment.

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