



Safely Disposing of

Unused Prescription Medications

Keeping old medicines around the home can be dangerous, as you run the risk of them being taken by accident or misused. This is why it is crucial to properly dispose of unused or expired medications as soon as possible.

Your Local Pharmacy

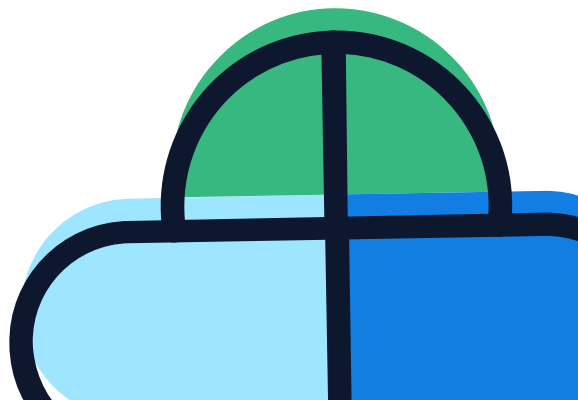
Some pharmacies have a take-back program for unused or expired medications, where you can drop them off in person or send them in a special package.

Contact your local pharmacy to find out if this is something that they provide.

Community Drug Take-Back Program

Especially in the case of controlled substances, such as opioids, a community take-back site is the best way to dispose of them. You can drop them off, or some sites accept them by mail in special packaging.

Visit <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know/drug-disposal-drug-take-back-locations> to find locations near you.





If those are not an option, here's how you can

safely dispose of your medications at home:

- 1. Mix any unused medications** with an unappealing substance like dirt, cat litter, coffee grounds, etc.
- 2. Put the mixture into a sealable bag or container** with a lid like an empty butter container, or Ziploc bag.
- 3. Protect your privacy and hide any personal information**, including your prescription number, by peeling it off, using duct tape, or a black permanent marker.
- 4. Put the containers into the trash**
- 5. Only flush medications when indicated on the label or patient information**, or if no other disposal options are available.



Additional Resources

www.hhs.gov/opioids/prevention/safely-dispose-drugs/DEATakeBack.com

Prescription Drug Take-Back Programs in your Area

Use this space to research & take note of medication take-back programs in your area.
