

It's important to dispose of your expired, unused or unneeded prescription medications the right way. Proper disposal of medications can help prevent drug overdoses and save lives.

It's easy. Just bring your unused, expired or unwanted medications to authorized take back locations or follow the steps below to dispose of them safely at home.

Medication Disposal in Your Community

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) prefers medications to be dropped off at certain pharmacies and other authorized sites. Bring them on National Prescription Drug Take Back Day or go to approved take back locations anytime throughout the year. Go online to <https://apps2.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e1s1> and www.DEATakeBack.com to find collection sites.

Medication Disposal At Home

Certain medications can be disposed of in your household trash



Remove medications from their original containers and scratch out or peel off any personal information, including the Rx number, from the container.



Mix the medications with something that can't be eaten, such as coffee grounds or kitty litter.



Place the empty container and the mixture in a sealed bag or empty can. Throw the container in your household trash.

Certain medications should be flushed down the toilet

Although a take back location is the best way to get rid of unwanted prescription drugs, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has a Flush List for medications that should be flushed instead of placed in the trash.

These include, but are not limited to:

- › Buprenorphine
- › Morphine
- › Meperidine
- › Fentanyl
- › Hydromorphone
- › Oxymorphone
- › Methylphenidate
- › Methadone
- › Hydrocodone
- › Oxycodone

Go online to <https://www.fda.gov/drugsdisposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know/drug-disposal-fdas-flush-list-certain-medicines#FlushList> for the most up-to-date Flush List

Note: For patches like fentanyl, fold the patch in half with the sticky sides together before flushing.

Important: If you suspect poisoning, immediately contact the Poison Control Help Center at 800-222-1222.

For more information, see www.hhs.gov/opioids/prevention/safely-dispose-drugs/index.html