



Safe Medication Disposal

Are you concerned about medication misuse & abuse?

- * Every 10 minutes a child visits the emergency room for medication poisoning
- * 12.5 million people age 12 & older misused opioids in the last year
- * Three in five teens say prescription pain medication is easy to get from their parents' medicine cabinet
(<https://takebackday.dea.gov>).

Do you have medications you no longer need or want?

Prompt disposal helps prevent misuse, abuse, and accidental exposure for people and pets.

Do you wonder how to safely dispose of unused, unneeded, or expired medications?

Prompt and safe disposal helps protect the environment and keeps people and pets safe. There are many ways to safely dispose of medications that you no longer need or want.

Do you want to help protect our water supply by not flushing the meds down the toilet?

Flushing medications introduces them into our surface and ground water systems, which can lead to environmental damage.



What to do with expired/unused medications that are not narcotics or opioids

For example over the counter pain meds, vitamins, unused antibiotics, cough and cold medications, pet medications.

Household Hazardous Waste collections accept expired/unused medications (pills only) that are not narcotics or opioids.

Canton, Plymouth City, Livonia (residents only) and Michigan State Police stations will accept expired/unused medications that are not narcotics or opioids. During hours they are open, Meijer Pharmacies also accept expired/unused medications. These locations accept pills only. The medications should be brought in a plastic bag, or in the pill containers with all identifying information removed. The process is anonymous, but you might need to show an ID. Check each police station or pharmacy for specifics such as location, hours, and any other requirements.

What to do with liquid medications

For example cough and cold medication such as NyQuil, DayQuil, Mucinex, Robitussin, Sudafed, or Benadryl.

Mix the liquid with an unpalatable substance such as kitty litter, dirt, or coffee grounds and place in a sealed plastic bag. Then dispose of the bag in your trash. Flushing the medication down the toilet will introduce it into our water system and may contaminate the environment.

What to do with pills if you can't get to a take-back location

Mix the pills with an unpalatable substance such as kitty litter, dirt, or coffee grounds and place in a sealed plastic bag. Do not crush them. Then dispose of the bag in your trash. Flushing the medication down the toilet will introduce it into our water system and may contaminate the environment.

What to do with ointments, creams, lotions, & patches

Many medication take back locations will not accept prescription ointments, creams, lotions, or patches. Some Walgreens pharmacies will accept these medications for disposal. The closest Walgreens that accepts these is on Ford Rd., in Dearborn Heights.

What to do with inhalers

Many medication take back locations will not accept inhalers. They should not be discarded in your trash. Check the label on your inhaler or ask your pharmacy for disposal instructions.

What to do if you have narcotic or opioid medications you wish to dispose of

Each Spring and Fall the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) and local organizations have drug take-back events where you can anonymously bring narcotics and opioid medications for disposal. For more info check <http://michigan-open.org/safe-drug-disposal/organizing-an-opioid-take-back-event/>

Some pharmacies will accept narcotic or opioid medications year round. Local pharmacies include those at Meijer, some Henry Ford Medical Centers (Livonia, West Bloomfield), some CVSs (Livonia, Belleville, Garden City), some Walgreens (Dearborn Heights), the University of Michigan Medical Center, and a few independent pharmacies. The process is anonymous; check for hours and locations.

Go to <https://apps2.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e1s1> enter your zip code and distance you are willing to travel, and search for local pharmacies that will accept narcotic and opioid medications for disposal.

What to do with the pill container after you safely dispose of your unused/unwanted medications

Remove any personal identifying information from the bottle and recycle it.

Your actions can help keep people, pets, and the environment safe! (Save this for future reference)