

HOW TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS

You might have medications that are old and expired. Or you no longer need them. Do not just put them in trash. It is important to get rid of these drugs as soon as possible in a safe way.

DRUG TAKE BACK LOCATIONS

“Take back” locations are always the best choice for getting rid of medications you no longer want. They are usually found in pharmacies or local government buildings. No appointment or paperwork is necessary.

Check with your pharmacy to see if they have this service or if one is nearby. If not, ask at your local government or community center, or your doctor’s office. Enclosed with this flyer, you will find a list with some of the take back locations in your community. Please note, there are many more than what are listed here.

Why it matters:

- Prescription medications that are safe for you may be harmful to someone else.
- They could harm animals that may find them discarded in the trash.
- They could be toxic to the environment.
- They could cause accidental poisoning if someone took them by mistake.
- They could be a temptation for those looking to misuse or abuse certain medications.



Disposal tips

- Remember to remove your name and other identifying information on the label. This will help protect your privacy.
- If you have unwanted injectable medicine, used needles, patches or inhalers, ask your doctor or pharmacist for the best disposal methods.

**FIND MORE LOCATIONS
NEAR YOU:**

[DEAtakeback.com](https://deatakeback.com)

or

<https://apps2.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e2s1>

AT-HOME DISPOSAL

If a take-back location is not available to you, you can use your regular garbage service. Only do this as a last resort.

Follow these steps to make your medicine disposal safer:

1. **Remove the drugs from their original containers and mix them with something undesirable.** You could use old coffee grounds, dirt, or cat litter. It makes the medicine less appealing to children and pets. It will also make them unrecognizable to someone who might go through the trash looking for drugs.
2. **Put the mixture in a re-sealable zipper storage bag, empty can, or other container** to prevent the drug from leaking or spilling out.
3. **Throw the container in the garbage.**
4. **Remove all your personal information on the empty medicine packaging.** This will protect your identity and privacy. Throw the packaging away.

Disposing of your unwanted drugs in the right way is very important. It's good for both our communities and the environment.



Flushing

Flushing medications down the drain or toilet is usually not recommended.

The patient information that comes with your medicine will say if it's safe to flush.

The FDA offers a list of medications that ARE safe to flush. Search online for "FDA Flush List." See if the drugs you have are on the list.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more info on the safe disposal of drugs, visit the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) website, [DEAtakeback.com](https://www.dea.gov/DEAtakeback.com) or call the DEA directly at **1-800-882-9539**.

You can also visit www.hhs.gov/opioids/prevention/safely-dispose-drugs/index.html.



No English?

Civil.Rights.Coord@bluecrossmn.com 1-888-740-6013; TTY 711

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SecureBlueSM Member Services can be reached at **1-888-740-6013 (TTY 711)**, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Central Time, daily, seven days a week (except Thanksgiving and Christmas) from October 1 through March 31, and Monday to Friday (except holidays) from April 1 through September 30 for more information. The call is free.

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