

# PARTNERSHIP FOR DRUG-FREE KIDS MEDICATION DISPOSAL GUIDE

Safe Drug Disposal Begins  
at Home



## Introduction

Allowing unused medication to remain in your home creates an easily accessible supply that can contribute to youth experimentation with dangerous substances, future addiction, accidental poisonings and increased opportunity for theft. Ridding your home of unused, unwanted or expired medication can help you to create a healthier and safer environment for yourself and your loved ones.

It is important to dispose of unused medication the moment it is no longer needed, and equally critical to make sure that unused medication is disposed of properly. If not disposed of in a safe and responsible manner, there could be risk of retrieval and misuse.

## Types of Disposal Solutions

There are a variety of methods available that allow you to dispose of medication in your own home. These options are simple and convenient. They allow for immediate disposal of medication so that it does not remain in the home, creating opportunity for misuse or accidental poisonings.

One option is to mix medications with an unappealing substance such as dirt, cat litter or used coffee grounds in a sealed bag and throw away with your household trash.

There are also easy-to-use at-home disposal products, and [DisposeRx](#) is one such solution. This powder allows you to dispose of your unused medication directly in its original vial or bottle. Once you have completed the two simple steps needed for proper disposal, just throw away in your household trash.

## Easy As...

1.

Add water until vial is 2/3 full



2.

Empty [DisposeRx](#) powder into vial, replace cap and shake for 30 seconds. Safely discard in trash.



Other at-home solutions include [Deterra](#) and [RxDestroyer](#).

## Other Types of Disposal Solutions and Additional Resources

### Kiosks and Collection Sites

These types of collection sites are typically collection boxes that are anchored in a building lobby such as a pharmacy, police or sheriff's office. They are usually well-marked with instructional signage and access at different times of day.



**DEA Collection Location Search Tool.** This search tool allows you to find locations that collect controlled substances (including retail pharmacies, hospitals and clinics with on-site pharmacies, etc.).

<https://apps2.dea.diversion.usdoj.gov/pubdis/psearch/spring/main?execution=e1s1>

**Rx Drug Drop Box.** The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy offers a search tool of permanent disposal sites for consumers.

<https://nabp.pharmacy/initiatives/awarxe/drug-disposal-locator/>

**Safer Communities.** Allows you to search for law enforcement dropoff locations and other kiosks and collection sites.

<https://www.cvs.com/content/prescription-drug-abuse/patients-and-families>

### Take-Back Events

These are scheduled and highly publicized opportunities that allow the public to bring in any of their unused medication for disposal. Temporary collection boxes are brought to the location for the event. These events require an on-site police officer to maintain custody of the drugs that are collected until the time that they are destroyed.

<https://takebackday.dea.gov>

Although several options for drug disposal exist, we promote any solution that ultimately cleans out the medicine cabinet and helps to build healthy homes and communities by eliminating any opportunity for drug misuse, accidental poisonings or contamination of our nation's water supplies.



 **Center on  
Addiction**

 **Partnership  
for Drug-Free Kids**