

HOW TO DISPOSE OF UNUSED MEDICATIONS



We all play a role in addressing our nation's prescription drug abuse crisis. Making a difference can be as easy as cleaning out your medicine cabinet.



Tips for getting rid of unused, unwanted or expired medications:



OPTION 1

Find An Authorized Collector

Approved drug take-back locations make it easy to discard of unused medication safely and anonymously in order to ensure that medications don't end up in the wrong hands. To find a collection site near you, visit takebackday.dea.gov.



OPTION 2

Safely Dispose of Unused Medication in Your Household Trash

If a take-back location is not available to you, there are safe and effective ways to dispose of medications in your household trash:



Mix the medications with an unpalatable substance such as dirt, kitty litter, or coffee grounds. Do not crush pills or capsules.



Place the mixture in a sealed plastic bag.



Throw the container in your household trash.

NOTE: Drug deactivation and disposal kits such as *Deterra*[®] or *DisposeRx*[™] may be available in your community. Ask your doctor, pharmacist, or local treatment center for more information.

6.4 million Americans abused controlled prescription drugs in 2015. The majority of these drugs were obtained from family or friends – often from home medicine cabinets.¹

1. National Survey on Drug Use and Health, SAMHSA, 2015