

HOW TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF UNUSED OR EXPIRED MEDICINE

Unused medicines are a risk. Many Dental and Medical offices keep Emergency Drug kits on hand but do not check regularly for expired items. Drug Kits should be checked quarterly, at minimum, and all expired or old medications and supplies should be disposed of properly. Here's how:

Check the FDA slash list to see if your medicine is on it.

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If you don't have a drug take back location near you, check the FDA Flush List to see if your medicine is on it.

Flushing certain types of medicines, such as opioids, helps keep everyone safe by making sure these powerful drugs are not accidentally or intentionally swallowed, touched or misused.

Don't have a drug takeback location nearby AND your medicine is not on the flush list?

1 Find a drug takeback location.

This could be a local pharmacy or a police station. These takeback locations may offer on-site medicine, drop-off boxes, mail-back programs, or in-home disposal products. The DEA's webpage can help you find a take-back location near you just enter your zip code.



Don't have a drug takeback location near you?

Dispose of it in the trash. 3

If you don't have a drug takeback location nearby AND your medicine is not on the flush list. You can dispose of it in the trash. For medicines you dispose of in the trash, the FDA recommends that you mix them with an unappealing substance such as dirt, cat litter, or used coffee grounds. Don't crush pills. Then, place the mixture in a sealed plastic bag before throwing it away. Scratch out personal information from the prescription labels on the empty packaging, and toss.

