



How To Dispose Of Medicine Safely

There are many ways to dispose of unwanted or expired medicine. The product you want to dispose of and how quickly you want to get rid of it can help you determine which disposal method is best for you.

Community Take Back Days



The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) sponsors two take-back events each year. Police departments and pharmacies may also sponsor permanent take-back locations. Check out <https://takebackday.dea.gov/> for more information.

In Home Disposal

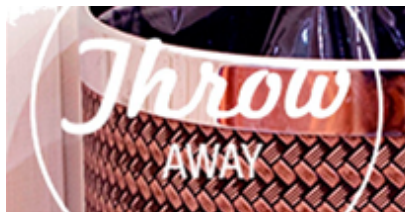
For all OTC medicines and many prescriptions, safe in-home disposal is easy. Follow this 3-step process:



Mix Medicines (do not crush tablets or capsules) with bad-tasting or inedible substance such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter.



Place the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag.



Throw the sealed container in your household trash

Certain Medicines: Flush Down the Toilet

There are medicines that can be especially harmful if used by the wrong person. These products should be disposed of right away to prevent misuse or a medicine mishap. At [FDA.gov](https://www.fda.gov) you can find a specific list of these medicines and recommendations for flushing them down the toilet.

You can also contact your local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222 to find out more about medicine disposal in your community.