

THROW THAT MEDICINE AWAY! BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY




**HELP LOWER RISK OF HARM TO HUMANS,
PETS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

MEDICINE TAKE BACK PROGRAMS

BEST Way to Get Rid of All Unwanted Medicines

You may need to check more than one source below to find the Take Back Program nearest you. It might be at a pharmacy, police station, or sheriff's office. Check at the drop off spot to find out what can be put in the Bin. For example, many do not accept inhalers.



Find a Take Back Program	When Available
Type medication disposal near me in Google Maps  bit.ly/diversion_control	All Year Round You likely have a drop off spot closer than you think
 https://safe.pharmacy/drug-disposal/	
 takebackday.dea.gov (Location addresses available first of April and October)	Last Saturday in April & October

DISPOSAL IN HOUSEHOLD TRASH

If Take Back Program is Not an Option



You can dispose of medicines in the trash (NOT RECYCLING). Follow the steps below:

1. Put the medicine in a resealable plastic bag or container. Do NOT crush tablets or capsules!
2. Mix used coffee grounds, cat litter, dirt, or other yucky substance into the bag/container to keep away people and pets. Be sure to seal it.
3. Put the well-sealed bag/container in the household trash, NOT recycling.
4. Scratch out or use permanent marker to black out everything on the package label or remove label. Throw away the empty package (recycle if possible).

Special Products for safer disposal of medicines in the trash can be found online and at some pharmacies (may be free).

FLUSHING MEDICINE DOWN THE TOILET

For Some Medicines Like Opioids if Take Back Program is Not an Option



The FDA says to flush some strong controlled medicines right away IF you cannot quickly get to a Take Back Program. The FDA believes the risk of overdose and death to people and pets is more than the risk to the environment. SC DES says to use trash disposal (see above) if no Take Back Program.

FDA US Food and Drug Administration
SC DES SC Department of Environmental Services

DID YOU KNOW?

Safe disposal is for **ALL** medicines & supplements, not just opioids and other controlled substances



**FDA FLUSHABLE
MEDICATION LIST**

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Medicine Take Back Programs do **NOT** take needles, thermometers, hydrogen peroxide, or illegal drugs.

GOT NEEDLES?

- **Go to Get the Point** at bit.ly/Disposing_Needles to learn how to safely throw away needles and other sharps in the trash (NOT recycling).
- **Email infectiouswaste@des.sc.gov or call 1-800-285-5257** to order free warning stickers to place on bottles where you put the needles. Be sure to include your name, address and number of stickers requested.

The FDA provides guidance on which medicines and patches may be flushed if you cannot quickly get to a Take Back Program: bit.ly/Safe_Med_Disposal

- Fold any patches in half with sticky sides together and flush right away. Wash your hands right away.

Check out the website <https://www.upandaway.org> to help **keep your medicines safe until you are ready to throw them away**. It is a good idea to lock up your controlled substances like opioids to help stop misuse or stealing.

Call the **Poison Control Center** at **1-800-222-1222** if you think your child or someone else got into your medicine. They will help you any time – day or night – for free.

NOTES

<https://www.schealthviz.sc.edu/tipsc-1>