



Proper Prescription Drug Disposal

Just as prescription drugs are prescribed carefully, they should also be disposed of properly. Spread the word and be an example.

Why does proper disposal of prescription drugs matter?

Improper disposal can:

- Lead to overdoses
- Lead to intentional misuse
- Damage the environment

Nearly 71% of diverted prescription drugs are obtained from a friend or relative, either for free (54.2%) or through theft or purchase (16.6%).

Be the solution and not the problem: Prevent drug diversion by doing your part in securely and safely disposing of prescription drugs.

Best Ways for Drug Disposal:

- Drug take-back options
- Flushing certain potentially dangerous drugs in the toilet
- Disposal in the household trash

Follow these three simple steps to select the best prescription drug disposal option:

Step 1: The best and safest way is through drug-disposal programs: drug take-backs at local drugstores, police stations, and other DEA designated collection sites.

If not available, proceed to Step 2.

Step 2: Check to see if the drug is on the [FDA Flush List](#). The list contains drugs with high risks of overdoses.

If yes, immediately flush the drug in the toilet.

If no, proceed to Step 3.

Step 3: Disposal in Household Trash:

- **MIX** drugs with an unpalatable substance such as dirt, cat litter, or coffee grounds. Do not crush the pills or open capsules.
- **PLACE** the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag.
- **THROW** the mixture container in your household trash.
- **SCRATCH OUT** all personal information on the prescription label of your empty pill bottle or packaging, then dispose of the container.