

Consumers and caregivers should remove expired, unwanted, or unused medicines from their home as quickly as possible to help reduce the chance that others may accidentally take or intentionally misuse the unneeded medicine.

Medicine take-back programs are a good way to safely dispose of most types of unneeded medicines. The U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) periodically hosts National Prescription Drug Take Back events where collection sites are set up in communities nationwide for safe disposal of prescription drugs. Local law enforcement agencies may also sponsor medicine take-back program in community. Likewise, consumers can contact their local waste management authorities to learn about medication disposal options and guidelines for their area.

Another option for consumers and long-term care facilities, like nursing homes, to dispose of unneeded medicines is to transfer unused medicines to collectors registered with the DEA, DEA-authorized collectors safely and securely collect and dispose of pharmaceuticals containing controlled substances and other medicines. In your community, authorized collection sites may be retail pharmacies, hospital or clinic pharmacies, and law enforcement locations.

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Some authorized collection sites may also offer mail-back programs or collection receptacles, sometimes called “drop-boxes” to assist consumers in safely disposing of their unused medicines.

Consumers can visit the [DEA’s website](#) for more information about drug disposal, [National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day events](#) and to locate a [DEA-authorized collector](#) in their area.

Consumers may also call the DEA Office of Diversion Control’s Registration Call Center at 1-800-882-9539 to find an authorized collector in their community.

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/EnsuringSafeUseofMedicine/SafeDisposalofMedicines/ucm186187.htm>

Community members can dispose of unwanted, expired, or unused prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications in the secure drop box during normal business hours **8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** Monday through Friday. Liquids and needles are not accepted. Please check with your local law enforcement to see if they have a drop-box.

Website: www.richlandrecycles.com

Disposal of Unused Medicines: What You Should Know

Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal

Click here to search for a collection site near you.



**Richland County Solid Waste
1125 National Parkway
Mansfield, Ohio 44906**

Telephone Number:(419)-774-5861



Can I flush medication down the drain?

No. Putting unused medications **down the drain or flushing down the toilet** may expose drinking water to the chemicals. Many of them cause ecological harm, and our current sewage treatment systems are not effective in removing all drugs from waterways.

Can I send them back to the manufacturer?

No. Manufacturers send consumers who ask about safely disposing medications to **SmatRxt Disposal** for information.

What's the best way to dispose of medication?

If you do not have a drug take back program in your area you can use this disposal method - you can safely dispose of your unused and expired medications in your household trash. They recommend these steps:

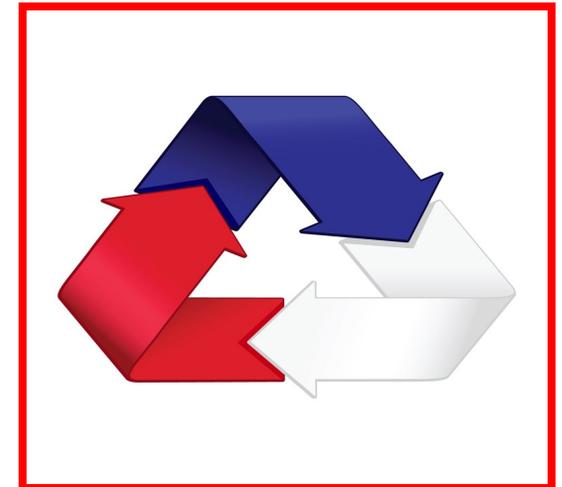
1. Pour medication into a sealable plastic bag. If medication is a solid (pill, liquid, capsule, etc.) add water to dissolve it.
2. Add kitty litter, sawdust, coffee grounds (or any material that mixes with the medication and makes it less appealing for pets and children to eat) to the plastic bag.
3. Seal the plastic bag and put it in the trash.
4. Remove and destroy all identifying personal information (prescription label) from all medication containers before recycling them or throwing them away.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back event

Please put all pills in a Ziploc bag when coming to our Medicine Collection Event. It is usually held twice a year if funding is available. We partner with Metrich and the Richland Public Health.

Do any pharmacies take back medications?

Yes, **some take back medications** at their location, while others provide mail back envelopes to send your drugs to other companies that will dispose of them properly.



RECYCLE