

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 sponsor medicine take-back programs in your community.

Consumers can contact their local waste management authorities to learn about medication disposal options and guidelines for their area.

For consumers and long-term care facilities, like nursing homes, another option 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, clinic pharmacies, and/or law enforcement locations.

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

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.

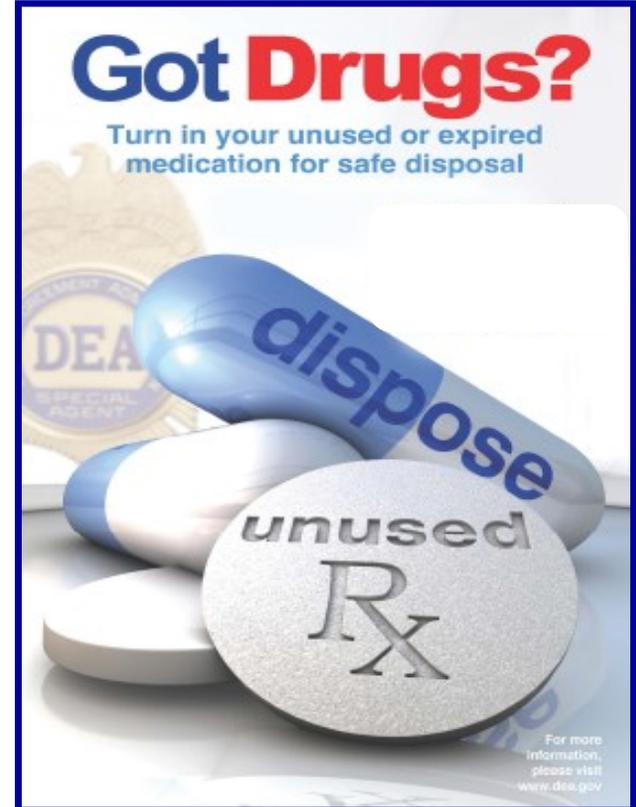
www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/EnsuringSafeUseofMedicine/SafeDisposalMedicines/ucm186187.htm



Some authorized collection sites may also offer mail-back programs or collection receptacles, sometimes called "drop-boxes" to assist consumers in safely disposing their unused medicines, such as Avita Hospital in Ontario and Bucyrus. **Avita offers 24 hour collection of unwanted and unused medicine.** The drug collection receptacle is secured, placed in a publicly accessible space and is regularly monitored by employees.

Please check with your local law enforcement to see if they have a drop-box.

Disposal of Unused Medicines: What You Should Know



**Richland County Solid Waste
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Mansfield, Ohio 44906**

Telephone Number: (419) 774-5861

Website: www.richlandrecycles.com



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.

RECYCLE

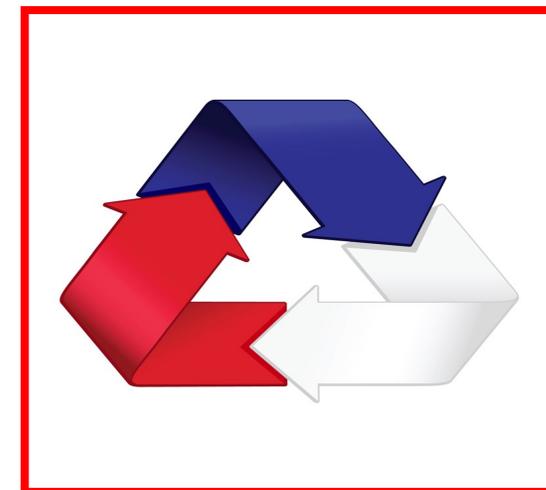
What's the best way to dispose of medication?

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 RCSW's Medicine Collection Event. It is usually held twice a year if funding is available. Richland County Solid Waste partners with Metrich for this event.



Do any pharmacies or manufacturers take back medications?

Some pharmacies 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.

Manufacturers do not take back medication.

Please refer to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's web page on pharmaceutical waste: <https://epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/rx>