

Getting Rid of Your Medicines



How do you get rid of your medicines when they expire or you no longer need them?

There are many ways that you can get rid of medicines that will help keep you, your family, and the community safe.

Medicine Take Back Programs

Medicine take back programs are a great way to help you get rid of unused, expired (old) or unwanted **prescription or over the counter medicines**. **They do not accept certain medicines such as narcotics, chemotherapy or syringes**. Here are some ways to find a program near you:

- Call your city's trash and recycling service
- Ask your local pharmacist if they know of any medicine take back programs nearby. Many pharmacies now provide information about medicine take back programs.
- Visit the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) website about National Prescription Drug Take Back Days and look for events in your area
https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html

For Oral Chemotherapy Medicines

- Ask your healthcare team at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey about a safe and proper way to get rid of oral chemotherapy medicines.

Medicine Drop Boxes

The Project Medicine Drop program was designed to make it easy for people to get rid of unused, expired (old) or unwanted **prescription or over the counter medicines**. There are over 30 medicine drop box locations found at many police stations throughout the state of New Jersey. Medicine drop boxes are open seven days a week, 365 days a year. Medicine drop boxes accept a wide variety of medicines. **Do not place liquid medicines, chemotherapy, and/or syringes in these boxes.**

For Narcotic Pain Killers:

- All narcotic pain killers should be disposed of by using one of the medicine drop locations.

For a complete list of medicine drop box locations near you, please visit:

<http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/meddrop/Pages/Locations.aspx>

Can I Get Rid of Medicines in My Household Trash?

Do not flush medicine down the toilet or drain. Talk to your healthcare team to find out which medicines are safe to dispose of at home, or visit the Department of Environmental Protection at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/rrtp/disposal.pdf>. **If there are no medicine take back programs or medicine drop boxes in your area**, here are some steps to help you properly dispose of your medicines:

Step 1



Use a permanent marker to mark out your personal information.

Step 2



Mix medicines with water and coffee grinds, kitty litter, or dirt.

Step 3



Place in a container you cannot see through. (such as a coffee can or yogurt container)

Step 4



Place in trash so that it cannot be seen by children or others. **Do not recycle.**

If you are in need of immediate assistance, please call 732-235-2465 and select the option that best meets your needs.