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How to Safely Dispose of Unused Prescription Medications

Get rid of unused or expired medicine as soon as possible. Read the information that came with your medicine. It might tell you how to safely get rid of it. If you don't have the information, follow one of these safe options:

1. **Ask your local pharmacy** if they have a program to get rid of medicine you do not need anymore.
 - Some pharmacies (and other DEA approved sites) allow medicine to be mailed to the pharmacy.
 - Ask for the special packages needed to mail medicine.
2. Bring the medicine to a **community Drug Take Back program**.
 - This is the best method for controlled substances.
 - You can search for Drug Take Back programs near you:
<https://www.artakeback.org/take-back/collection-sites/>.
3. Visit DEATakeBack.com to find other collection sites in your area.
 - You can search by your city or zip code at:
<https://apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e1s1>.
4. Follow the steps below to **throw away medicine in the trash** or flush *approved* medications.
 - Do not flush medicine in the toilet or sink unless there are instructions telling you to do so. Learn more about the flush list and safe medicine disposal at:
<https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/prevention/safely-dispose-drugs/index.html>.



Take or scratch off personal information, including Rx number, from the packaging before getting rid of medicine.

Throwing away medicine at home

There are three simple steps to throw away your medicine in your household trash:

1. **Remove** the medicine from its container and **mix** with an unappealing substance, such as dirt, used coffee grounds or kitty litter.
2. Put the mixture in a **sealable bag** or other container. This will prevent leaking or breaking out of the garbage bag.
3. Place in the trash.