



Oklahoma Center *for*
Poison & Drug Information

(800) 222-1222

FACT SHEET

Medication Disposal

Medicines play an important role in treating many conditions and diseases. However, when they are no longer needed, it's important to dispose of them properly to avoid harm to others. Many times, unused and old medications are stolen and misused.

Disposal in Drop Box

A drop box is a secure white "mailbox" located in police stations and other public locations across the state. Medications are collected from the drop boxes by the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and properly destroyed.

To find a **drop box location** near you, visit: <https://portal.obn.ok.gov/takeback/default.aspx> or call the Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information.

Disposal in Household Trash

- Mix medicines with an unpleasant substance such as dirt, kitty litter or used coffee grounds.
- Place the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag or rinsed bleach or liquid laundry detergent container.
- Throw the container in your household trash.
- Prior to discarding empty prescription bottles, scratch out all information on the label to make it unreadable or remove the label entirely. This will help preserve your medical privacy.

Medication safety and storage

- **DO** store medications in a cool, dry place.
- **DO** lock up medications that are at risk for abuse. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if your medicine has a high potential for abuse.
- **DO** store medication in original containers.
- **DO** keep track of how many pills you have.
- **DON'T** leave medicine in places that are easily accessible to children or others who might be tempted to take it.
- **DON'T** share or trade your medicine with others.
- **DON'T** transfer medicine to unmarked containers.
- **DON'T** take medicine in front of children, as they often imitate the behavior of adults.

The FDA recommends that some medications be disposed of by flushing down the toilet. Examples include fentanyl patches and strong pain medications that could severely injure someone or cause death with a single dose. A list of these medications can be found by going to www.fda.gov and navigating to the page "Disposal of Unused Medicines: What You Should Know".

POISON
Help
1-800-222-1222

If you have questions about **proper medication disposal** please call us.

Specially trained pharmacists and nurses are available 24/7 to assist with your emergency and answer your questions!

Copy in this fact sheet has been adapted from:
TakeAsPrescribed.org

For more information, please refer to our website:

OklahomaPoison.org