

Disposing Meds Safely

Bring your expired and unused medications to an RxBOX location that is convenient for you. The medications will then be incinerated in collaboration with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency using state-of-the-art technology.

The medications will not be reused in any way.

Disposal Recommendations

- Bring household medication including over-the-counter, prescription medications, ointments and liquid medications that are expired or unused.
- Also drop off asthma inhalers.
- You can bring medications as they are in their original containers or, for spill-free disposal, place the pills or liquid medication bottles in a zipper top plastic bag.
- Cross off any personal information on the label to reduce concerns about personal identification information.



Items NOT Accepted

- Sharps, needles or EpiPens®
- Radioactive medicines
- Any other medical waste
- Household chemical waste; these items need to be disposed of using other methods.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) can be disposed of at the HHW facility in Naperville.

Sources

- CDC.gov
- Drugabuse.gov
- Drugfreeworld.org
- National Institute on Drug Abuse

 **DUPAGE COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Everyone, Everywhere, Everyday



3/19/2019 Version 2.1

The Solution is Simple...

Reduce the amount of unused and expired medications in our households and dispose of them in a way that is the safest for our environment.



Locations



Addison Police Department

3 Friendship Plaza, Addison, IL 60101

Bensenville Police Department

345 E Green Street, Bensenville, IL 60106

Bloomingdale Police Department

201 S. Bloomingdale Road, Bloomingdale, IL 60108

Carol Stream Police Department

500 N. Gary Avenue, Carol Stream, IL 60188

Clarendon Hills Police Department

448 Park Avenue, Clarendon Hills, IL 60514

Darien Police Department

1710 Plainfield Road, Darien, Illinois 60561

DuPage County Sheriff

501 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

Elmhurst Police Department

125 E 1st Street, Elmhurst, IL 60126

Glendale Heights Police Department

300 Civic Plaza, Glendale Heights, IL 60139

Glen Ellyn Police Department

65 S Park Blvd, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Hanover Park Police Department

2011 W. Lake Street, Hanover Park, IL 60133

Itasca Police Department

540 W. Irving Park Rd., Itasca, 60143

Lisle Police Department

5040 Lincoln Avenue, Lisle, IL 60532

Naperville Police Department

1350 Aurora Avenue, Naperville, IL 60540

Roselle Police Department

103 S Prospect Street, Roselle, IL 60172

Schaumburg Police Department

1000 W. Schaumburg Road, Schaumburg, IL 60194

Wood Dale Police Department

404 N. Wood Dale Road, Wood Dale, IL 60191



Disposing Meds Safely

The Problem:

Unused medication is a risk to families, the community and our environment.

The **Solution** is **Simple...**

The Problem

Nationally, regionally and even locally there has been growing concern about what we all do with the medicines that are left over in our cabinets. We take medication for so many reasons - for minor injuries, the occasional headache, back or muscle pain, to help relieve cold symptoms, for our high blood pressure or cholesterol. Over-the-counter medication, prescriptions, ointments and liquids....we often have medications that may be expired or no longer needed.

Unused Medications

- One-third of prescription and over-the-counter medicines go unused or expire.
- Unused medications left in the home increase accessibility, the number one contributing factor to all misuse and abuse of prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs.

Risks of Poisoning

- Accidental poisoning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death in the U.S. Nearly 9 out of 10 poisoning deaths are caused by drugs.
- Children, even when well-supervised, are exploratory and curious, they often have lots of opportunities to get into medicines in purses, cabinets and counter tops.

Teen Drug Abuse

- Prescription and over-the-counter drugs are the most commonly abused substances by Americans age 14 and older, after marijuana and alcohol.
- As many as 1 in every 4 teens in America say they have taken a prescription drug that was not prescribed for them.
- 90% of all teens who abused pharmaceutical drugs obtain their drugs from their home medicine cabinet or from a friend's medicine cabinet.
- A dangerous misconception teens have is that these drugs are safer to abuse than illegal drugs because they are prescribed by doctors.

Our Environment

- Whether they are put in the trash or in our water supplies, medications may pollute or have risks to our environment.
- Even though our drinking water is safe, low levels of pharmaceuticals have been recently found in drinking water of 24 U.S. cities.
- Studies are being done to help understand what impact these contaminants may have on our environment and our water supplies. In the mean time we know that we can reduce any potential risks by seeking out safe disposal methods.

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