



## Need to dispose of unwanted or expired prescription medication?

Timely disposal of unwanted or expired prescription medicine can reduce the risk of others taking the medication accidentally or misusing it intentionally!

- **Find a drug take back location:** Check with local hospitals and pharmacies to see if they accept unwanted medication. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) also has a drug take back site locator at [takebackday.dea.gov](http://takebackday.dea.gov)
- **Read your prescription medicine label.** It may contain specific instructions that will allow you to safely dispose of the medicine at home.
- **No special disposal instructions or nearby take back locations?** Dispose of your medication in the trash by following these four steps:
  - 1) Mix your medicine with an inedible substance like dirt, cat litter, or used coffee grounds.
  - 2) Put the mixture in a container, such as a sealed plastic bag.
  - 3) Throw the container in your household trash.
  - 4) Scratch out all the personal information on the prescription label to make it unreadable. Then dispose or recycle the empty medication bottle.

Learn more about safe medicine disposal at [www.cdc.gov/wtc/prescriptionsafety.html](http://www.cdc.gov/wtc/prescriptionsafety.html)