

**Disposal of Unused Medicines**  
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Occasionally, there are unwanted medications that need disposal. These could be medications we no longer take, expired medications, or those from a family member who has passed away. So, what do we do with these drugs so they don't fall into the wrong hands? The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) provides several options for disposal.

**1. Medicine Take-Back Options**

- **Periodic events** – The DEA periodically hosts National Prescription Drug Take-Back events where temporary collection sites are set up in communities nationwide for safe disposal of prescription drugs. More information can be found at: <https://www.dea.gov/divisions/office-of-public-affairs/press-releases/2017/07/17-07-01-02>
- **Permanent Collection sites** – Another option is to transfer these medicines to DEA-registered collectors, which safely and securely collect and dispose of pharmaceuticals containing controlled substances and other medications. The Hocking County Sheriff's Office has an authorized permanent collection box where pharmaceuticals may be disposed. They are located at 25 E. Second Street in Logan. The phone number is (740) 385-2131.

**2. Disposal in household trash** – If there is no access to a take-back program or DEA-registered collector, and there are no specific disposal instructions in the product package insert, you can also follow these simple steps to dispose of most medications in your household trash:

- Mix medicines (do not crush tablets or capsules) with an unpalatable substance such as dirt, cat litter or used coffee grounds;
- Place the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag;
- Throw the container in your household trash; and
- Delete all personal information on the prescription label of empty pill bottles or medicine packaging, then dispose of the container.

**3. Flushing certain potentially dangerous medicines in the toilet** – A small number of medicines have specific instructions to immediately flush down the toilet when no longer needed and a take-back option is not readily available. These medicines may be especially harmful and, in some cases, fatal with just one dose if they are used by someone other than the person for whom they were prescribed. A complete list of flushable medications can be found at: [https://www.fda.gov/drugs/resourcesforyou/consumers/buyingusingmedicinesafely/ensuringsafeuseofmedicine/safedisposalofmedicines/ucm186187.htm#Medicines\\_recommended](https://www.fda.gov/drugs/resourcesforyou/consumers/buyingusingmedicinesafely/ensuringsafeuseofmedicine/safedisposalofmedicines/ucm186187.htm#Medicines_recommended)

This information was adapted from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Additional information may be located at:

[https://www.fda.gov/drugs/resourcesforyou/consumers/buyingusingmedicinesafely/ensuringsafeuseofmedicine/safedisposalofmedicines/ucm186187.htm#Medicines\\_recommended](https://www.fda.gov/drugs/resourcesforyou/consumers/buyingusingmedicinesafely/ensuringsafeuseofmedicine/safedisposalofmedicines/ucm186187.htm#Medicines_recommended)