



# HOW TO DISPOSE OF UNUSED MEDICINES

Expired or unused prescription and over-the-counter medications should never be disposed of by flushing them down the toilet or a drain. Although this method of disposal prevents accidental ingestion, it can pollute Florida's waterways because wastewater treatment systems are not designed to remove many of these medications. The best way to dispose of your expired unwanted or unused medicines is through a drug take back program – or you can do it at home.



## How to Dispose of Medicines at Home

- Keep the medicines in their original container. This will help identify the contents if they are accidentally ingested.
- Mark out name and prescription number for safety.
- To prevent accidental ingestion add water or soda to pills to start dissolving them; and for liquid medications add something inedible such as cat litter, dirt or cayenne pepper.
- Close the lid and secure with duct or packing tape.
- Place the bottle(s) inside a non see-through container such as a coffee can or plastic laundry bottle.
- Tape the container closed.
- Hide the container in the trash. Do not put in the recycling bin.

## Drug Take Back Programs

Check with your local law enforcement officials to find a take back location near you or with the DEA to find an authorized collector in your community. Scan the QR code to find DEA Controlled Substance Public Disposal Locations near you.



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