

***IMPORTANT NOTE:*** Properly disposing of unused, unwanted, or expired medications is important! It will help prevent accidental ingestion, drug overdose, and help protect the environment. See resources below!

Most medications can be safely disposed of by using a drug take-back program, an authorized collection site, or proper in-home disposal. Learn more below on safe disposal of your expired, unused and unwanted medications.

### DRUG TAKE-BACK PROGRAMS

Drug take-back programs are an effective way to properly and safely dispose of expired and unused medications. You can visit the DEA's website for more information on upcoming dates and to locate an authorized collector in your area.

LEARN MORE BY CONTACTING THE DEA

[www.deatakeback.com](http://www.deatakeback.com)  
1.800.882.9539

You can also read more information about the DEA's National Take-Back Initiative.

### IN-HOME DISPOSAL TIPS

If dropping medications off at a designated site is not an option, several steps are recommended for safe disposal.

1. **Be sure to remove all identifying information on the prescription labels.**
2. **Mix medications with an undesirable substance such as dirt or kitty litter.**
3. **Place in a sealed container or plastic bag and throw out in your household trash.**

Please review [Environmental Protection Agency](#) and [Food and Drug Administration](#) resources for more information on proper medication disposal.

### IMPORTANT RESOURCES

The following websites can provide more information on: safe, proper disposal of any expired or unused medications:

***Environmental Protection Agency***

- How to Dispose of Medicines Properly  
[go.usa.gov/xNwXc](http://go.usa.gov/xNwXc)

**Food and Drug Administration**

- Disposal of Unused Medicines: What You Should Know  
[go.usa.gov/xNw9z](http://go.usa.gov/xNw9z)
- How to Dispose of Unused Medicines  
[go.usa.gov/xNw9S](http://go.usa.gov/xNw9S)

**Preventing prescription drug misuse:**

[www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov)  
[www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com](http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com)  
[www.justthinktwice.com](http://www.justthinktwice.com)  
[www.campusdrugprevention.gov](http://www.campusdrugprevention.gov)

Healthcare-associated infections are infections that patients can get in a healthcare setting while receiving medical care. These infections are most often preventable. Follow these tips to help in preventing infectious diseases:



**Hand Hygiene.** The most important way to help prevent infection. It is okay to ask healthcare workers and visitors to clean their hands, if you don't see them do it.



**Safe Injection Practices.** It is important to recognize unsafe injection practices. Remember: one needle, one syringe, one time.



**Speak Up.** Never feel shy or reluctant to ask for more information. It is important that you have a voice in your care.



**Ask Questions.** You need to understand what medicines you are taking and why your taking them and how long you should have to take them. Ask questions if your not sure.