

Community Drug Drop Boxes



Many communities have a drug drop box for expired and unused prescriptions. You can find a list of drop boxes at ct.gov/dropbox.

Don't Flush!

Low levels of drugs such as antibiotics, hormones, contraceptives and steroids have been found in 80 percent of rivers and streams tested. Medication should never be flushed and should be disposed of properly.



Get Help

If you suspect accidental ingestion of medication, call the Connecticut Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222) or your healthcare provider right away. If someone is unconscious, or having problems breathing, walking or sitting up, **dial 911**.

Talk with your doctor or other medical professional if you think you may have a problem with prescription drug use. Getting help early can prevent serious problems like addiction or overdose.



Connect with us

You can visit the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection's website for information about the safe storage of prescription drugs and disposal of unused and expired prescription drugs.

 Dcp.prescriptions@ct.gov

 www.ct.gov/dcp/pmp



Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection
Drug Control Division



SAFE STORAGE & DISPOSAL OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS



Get Organized



1. Make a list of all medications you have. Do this once or twice a year.
2. Check the expiration date on the label to make sure the medication has not expired.
3. Throw out medications that are discolored, dried out, crumbling, or show other signs that they are no longer usable.
4. Look for leftover prescription medications from a previous illness or condition and dispose of them.

Store Medications

- Keep medications in their original container.
- Never mix or combine different medications into one bottle.
- Don't store medications in areas that are hot and humid, such as the bathroom medicine cabinet.
- If a medication needs to be stored in the refrigerator, be careful not to store it in the freezer or expose it to a lot of moisture.

Keep It Locked



- Keep medications securely locked up. Store them out of reach and out of sight of children and pets.
- Powerful pain medications can be targets for people, including strangers, who can take them without you knowing.
- Parents and grandparents should be aware that one-third of accidental childhood prescription drug poisonings involve a grandparent's medication.



Prevent Accidental Overdose

- Read the label twice before you take or give medication.
- Never let young children take medication by themselves.
- Don't share prescription medication with your spouse, family, or friends. It is prescribed to you for your medical condition based on your age, weight, and medical history.

Check Expiration Dates



All medications have an expiration date. Medications may lose potency, or strength, after the expiration date. Expired medication can also grow bacteria or fungus. Dispose of expired, unused or no longer needed drugs.

Make It Safe to Dispose

If dropping medication in a drop box:

- Keep the medication in its original container.
- Cross out your personal information or remove the label.
- Check what can (and can't) be disposed of in a drop box by visiting ct.gov/dropbox.

If throwing it out at home:

1. Mix your medication with soapy water, coffee grounds, salt, or kitty litter.
2. Put the mixture in another container and tape it shut.
3. Throw the sealed container in the regular trash.