

It's Important to Safely Remove Opioids From Your Home



Help keep your family and community safe, starting in your home—get rid of any unused or expired prescription opioids that may be in cabinets, drawers, or anywhere else you store medicine. Remove these medicines as soon as possible to reduce the chance of accidental or intentional opioid misuse.

WHAT IS AN OPIOID?

Prescription opioids are powerful pain-reducing medicines that include oxycodone, hydrocodone, morphine, and others. Doctors prescribe opioids after surgeries and for injuries; however, these medicines can have serious risks if they are misused by accident or on purpose.

WHY IS OPIOID DISPOSAL IMPORTANT FOR ME AND MY FAMILY?

Prescription opioid misuse is one of the most common types of illegal drug use in the United States. Many people who misused prescription pain-reducing medicine said that they got it from a friend or relative.¹

HOW DO I SAFELY DISPOSE OF OPIOIDS?

Ask these questions to determine how to dispose of opioids:

1. Is a [medicine take-back option](#) readily available? If so, this is the preferred option.
2. If not, is the medicine on the FDA "[flush list](#)"? If it is, flush it down the toilet.
3. Otherwise, throw it away in the household trash, following the directions at www.FDA.gov/DrugDisposal.

For information about all three of these methods, visit www.FDA.gov/DrugDisposal.



Keeping unused opioids in the home creates a serious health risk, especially if teens or children live with or visit you.

Remember:

- ✓ Don't share your opioid prescription with others.
- ✓ Store opioids out of sight and out of reach of children or teens in your home.
- ✓ Dispose of unused opioids safely when there is no longer a medical need for them.

¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2018). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (HHS Publication No. SMA 18-5068, NSDUH Series H-53). Rockville, MD: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Retrieved from <https://www.samhsa.gov/data>