



# Disposing Meds Safely

## The Problem:

Unused medication is a risk to families, the community and our environment.



## The Solution is Simple...

### The Problem

Nationally, regionally and even locally there has been growing concern about what we all do with the medicines that are left over in our cabinets. We take medication for so many reasons - for minor injuries, the occasional headache, back or muscle pain, to help relieve cold symptoms, for our high blood pressure or cholesterol. Over-the-counter medication, prescriptions, ointments and liquids...we often have medications that may be expired or no longer needed.

### Unused Medications

- One-third of prescription and over-the-counter medicines go unused or expire.
- Unused medications left in the home increase accessibility, the number one contributing factor to all misuse and abuse of prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs.

### Risks of Poisoning

- Accidental poisoning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death in the U.S. Nearly 9 out of 10 poisoning deaths are caused by drugs.
- Children, even when well-supervised, are exploratory and curious, they often have lots of opportunities to get into medicines in purses, cabinets and counter tops.

### Teen Drug Abuse

- Prescription and over-the-counter drugs are the most commonly abused substances by Americans age 14 and older, after marijuana and alcohol.
- As many as 1 in every 4 teens in America say they have taken a prescription drug that was not prescribed for them.
- 90% of all teens who abused pharmaceutical drugs obtain their drugs from their home medicine cabinet or from a friend's medicine cabinet.
- A dangerous misconception teens have is that these drugs are safer to abuse than illegal drugs because they are prescribed by doctors.

### Our Environment

- Whether they are put in the trash or in our water supplies, medications may pollute or have risks to our environment.
- Even though our drinking water is safe, low levels of pharmaceuticals have been recently found in drinking water of 24 U.S. cities.
- Studies are being done to help understand what impact these contaminants may have on our environment and our water supplies. In the mean time we know that we can reduce any potential risks by seeking out safe disposal methods.

## Disposing Meds Safely

Bring your expired and unused medications to an RxBOX location that is convenient for you. The medications will then be incinerated in collaboration with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency using state-of-the-art technology.

The medications will not be reused in any way.

## Disposal Recommendations

- Bring household medication including over-the-counter, prescription medications, ointments and liquid medications that are expired or unused.
- Also drop off asthma inhalers.
- You can bring medications as they are in their original containers or, for spill-free disposal, place the pills or liquid medication bottles in a zipper top plastic bag.



- Cross off any personal information on the label to reduce concerns about personal identification information.

## Items NOT Accepted

- Sharps, needles or EpiPens®
- Radioactive medicines
- Any other medical waste
- Household chemical waste; these items need to be disposed of using other methods.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) can be disposed of at the HHW facility in Naperville.

## Sources

- CDC.gov
- Drugabuse.gov
- Drugfreeworld.org
- National Institute on Drug Abuse



*Everyone, Everywhere, Everyday*



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# The Solution is Simple...

Reduce the amount of unused and expired medications in our households and dispose of them in a way that is the safest for our environment.



## Locations



### Addison Police Department

3 Friendship Plaza, Addison, IL 60101

### Bensenville Police Department

345 E Green Street, Bensenville, IL 60106

### Bloomington Police Department

201 S. Bloomington Road, Bloomington, IL 60108

### Carol Stream Police Department

500 N. Gary Avenue, Carol Stream, IL 60188

### Clarendon Hills Police Department

448 Park Avenue, Clarendon Hills, IL 60514

### Darien Police Department

1710 Plainfield Road, Darien, Illinois 60561

### DuPage County Sheriff

501 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

### Elmhurst Police Department

125 E 1st Street, Elmhurst, IL 60126

### Glendale Heights Police Department

300 Civic Plaza, Glendale Heights, IL 60139

### Glen Ellyn Police Department

65 S Park Blvd, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

### Hanover Park Police Department

2011 W. Lake Street, Hanover Park, IL 60133

### Itasca Police Department

540 W. Irving Park Rd., Itasca, 60143

### Lisle Police Department

5040 Lincoln Avenue, Lisle, IL 60532

### Naperville Police Department

1350 Aurora Ave, Naperville, IL 60540

### Roselle Police Department

103 S Prospect Street, Roselle, IL 60172

### Westmont Police Department

500 N. Cass Avenue, Westmont, IL 60559

### Wood Dale Police Department

404 N. Wood Dale Road, Wood Dale, IL 60191