

CLEAN SWEEP

Let's talk about PRESCRIPTION DISPOSAL

Take a moment to think: What prescriptions do you currently have in your home? Antibiotics you never finished? Leftover pain pills? Expired medications?

It's time to clean out your medicine cabinet!

Keeping prescription medicine can be dangerous — children or pets can be accidentally poisoned by swallowing medicine. There's also a chance of theft: More than 70% of people who abuse prescription painkillers obtained them from family or friends, with or without permission. It's important to dispose of these drugs when they're no longer needed, and to keep them secure when they are in use.

Flip over for ways to keep your family safe and prevent drug abuse.



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WITH MEDICINES YOU NO LONGER NEED?

DON'T



Flush medicines or pour them down the drain. This can pollute the water supply, and it's illegal in many states.



Keep medicines for longer than necessary. Medicines can degrade over time and become ineffective.



DO



Keep your medicines, especially opioids, secure while in use. Think of your medications like weapons – they need to be kept in a safe place where only you can access them. Locking up your meds can prevent poisoning, theft, suicide attempts and more.



Call your pharmacy. Many pharmacies offer mail-back programs and even in-store disposal.



Participate in National Drug Take Back Day. Every April and October, the DEA organizes a day to provide a safe and convenient way to dispose of prescription drugs. Visit takebackday.dea.gov to find a donation site near you.



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