

Pharmaceutical Waste

Expired or unwanted non-narcotic prescription and over-the-counter medications from households have traditionally been disposed of by flushing them down the toilet or a drain. This is not recommended due to the possibility of surface and ground water contamination.

TakeAway—Iowa's Medication Disposal Program

TakeAway[™] is a statewide prescription drug disposal program that allows consumers to safely dispose of unused or expired medications through the convenience of drop-off boxes at their community pharmacies.

Acceptable materials include unused or expired prescription medicines and over-the-counter medications, including pills, tablets, capsules, ointments, creams, lotions, powders, inhalers, nebulizer solutions, and liquid medicines in bottles less than 4 ounces.

Unacceptable materials include controlled substances, syringes, lancets, thermometers, rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, or durable medical equipment supplies.

To learn more about the ***TakeAway*** program and to find a participating pharmacy near you, visit www.iarx.org/takeaway.

ANNUAL CLEAN OUT YOUR MEDICINE CABINET EVENT

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND YOUR PRIVACY

- 1) Keep all substances in their original containers, if possible.
- 2) All liquid containers must be sealed in leak proof clear plastic bags.
- 3) Mark out any identifying information on prescription bottles.
- 4) Unidentified medications will be accepted—NO QUESTIONS ASKED

ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS:

- 1) Prescription and over the counter medications including vitamins, supplements, and herbals
- 2) Needles, sharps, syringes with needles in puncture proof containers
- 3) Thermometers in zip-lock or plastic bags
- 4) Medication samples
- 5) Aerosols or pressurized containers
- 6) Hydrogen Peroxide

UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS: Bloody or Infectious Waste

Contact DMASWA at 563-588-7933 for information on the next collection event.



Project Planning Partners:
Dubuque Drug Task Force
Dubuque Area Substance Abuse Coalition
Dubuque County Safe Youth Coalition
Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency

Pharmaceutical Waste



Additional Disposal Method for Non-narcotic Prescriptions

If you are unable to take medications back to a pharmacy or save for a collection event, the recommended alternate disposal method for non-narcotic prescriptions is:



1. Keep expired medication in original container and place in an unmarked container (e.g. old yogurt container with a lid).



2. Modify the medications to discourage consumption. For solid medications, such as pills or capsules: add a small amount of water to partially dissolve them. For liquid medications: add table salt or flour to make a mixture that discourages anyone from drinking them. For blister packs: wrap the packages containing pills in multiple layers of duct or other opaque tape.

3. Seal and conceal.

Tape the medication container lid shut with packing or duct tape to ensure that the contents cannot be seen. Do not conceal medicines in food products because they could be consumed by wild-life scavengers.

4. After modifying medications properly, they can be discarded in the trash and sent to the landfill.

Do Not Place in Recycling Bins!



Where Can I Find More Information?

Ask your health care provider or local pharmacist if your prescriptions are non-narcotic and if they can dispose of them or know of safe disposal programs near you or contact the Solid Waste Education Office at (563) 588-7933.