

DEA NATIONAL ^{Rx} **TAKEBACK**



**Turn in unneeded medication
for safe disposal.**

**Saturday, April 22
10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Keep them safe. Clean them out. Take them back.

Visit **DEATakeBack.com** for a collection site near you.

National Take Back Initiative
Saturday, April 22, 2023
10:00am – 2:00pm Local Time

Introduction

On April 22, 2023, from 10am – 2pm local time, DEA will coordinate a collaborative effort with state and local law enforcement agencies focused on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from our nation's medicine cabinets. This national take-back day will provide a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction and will bring national focus to the issue of pharmaceutical drug abuse.

The program provides an opportunity for law enforcement, prevention, treatment and business communities to collaborate and establish a safe collection site for all Americans, regardless of where they reside.

Registration for the Event

- Registration is on-line only and you will be registered by your State's Point of Contact.

Collection Day Protocols

- State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies may host one or more collection sites at locations of their choosing. Locations should be selected that provide easy access and available parking.
- Controlled, non-controlled, and over the counter substances may be collected. The general public is often unaware of the distinction in medication status.
- This event is for patients and their families to dispose of unwanted medications. Pharmacies, hospitals and physicians may **NOT** drop off their excess medications for disposal. You may accept meds from nursing homes since those meds belong to the patients and not the facility.
- Any solid dosage form pharmaceutical products (tablets, capsules, etc.) in consumer containers may be accepted. Small (pint size) bottles of cough syrups may be accepted if they are sealed in their original container. The depositor should ensure that the cap is tightly sealed to prevent leakage.
- Illicit substances such as marijuana or heroin are not a part of this initiative and should not be accepted. If an individual attempts to surrender an illicit controlled substance, law enforcement personnel should handle such material in accordance with department policy.
- **No needles may be accepted.** Intra-venous (IV) solutions, injectable, and syringes should **NOT** be accepted due to potential hazard posed by blood-borne pathogens. Here is a link to disposal locations in your state: **Needles**
- Inhalers and other compressed air cylinders may **NOT** be accepted.
- This program is anonymous and all efforts should be made to protect the anonymity of individuals disposing of medications. No questions or requests for identification should be made.
- The public should dispose of medication in its original container (Rx vial) or by removing the medication from its container and disposing of it directly into the disposal box. You are **NOT** required to remove the Rx labels from

the bottles by any federal law or regulation. Since the public is turning it in to you, there are **NO** patient privacy rules being violated. All material collected (including the Rx vials) will be incinerated.

- No effort should be made by law enforcement personnel to count, inventory, or log medications.
- The public should retain possession of their own medication during the surrender process. Law enforcement personnel should not handle the medications at any time.
- A law enforcement officer must remain with the drug disposal bag/box at all times. Collected pharmaceutical products should be handled as drug evidence with law enforcement custody to safe-guard the surrendered material.
- At the conclusion of the event, a law enforcement officer should seal the containers in accordance with your agency's evidentiary policy and procedure.
- **The drug collection bag/box should then be returned to your police department and stored per your department's standard operating procedures for safe keeping and temporary storage until they are turned over to DEA.**
- Please weigh each bag/box and simply notate the weight, to the nearest pound, with the labels provided.
- DEA will bear the cost of destruction of these materials. If you currently have a disposal arrangement that you wish to utilize in lieu of DEA picking up these containers, you are free to do so. We want this to be as simple as possible for you.
- Media Awareness – DEA will be buying ads in newspapers nationally, though I can not guarantee print ads in every community, and we will also be communicating to radio and TV broadcasters with press releases in the days leading up to the event. We encourage you to engage your local media directly. Your departments are playing a major role in this event. We are simply attempting to coordinate these activities on a single day to raise awareness and help you provide this service to your communities.

Common Questions

- **Q: May we accept the containers that the drugs come in as well as the drugs?** Yes, you may. No need to separate the drugs from the vials. Plastic and glass are acceptable; **however, NO NEEDLES.**
- **Q: May we accept pre-loaded syringes?** Yes, as long as the needle has been removed by the patient. You may accept Epi Pens since the needles are sheathed.
- **Q: What advice should we give those who bring syringes with needles that we cannot accept?** Refer the public to the FDA website:
<http://www.fda.gov/medicaldevices/productsandmedicalprocedures/homehealthandconsumer/consumerproducts/sharps/default.htm>
- **Q: May we accept inhalers?** No. We can't accept inhalers or any aerosol medications because they "pop" or explode at the incineration facility.
- **Q: May we accept veterinary drugs?** Yes. Veterinary drugs are available by Rx and over-the-counter (OTC). ALL Rx and OTC drugs are acceptable. The species of the "consumer" does not matter.
- **Q: My local pharmacist says we have to remove the Rx label from the vials before we can accept them per HIPPA privacy rules?** No. HIPPA does not apply to you or this situation. This is a voluntary project that is consumer driven. You are under no obligation to remove anything from any label. The consumer should remove or deface the label if they are concerned before placing the vial in the bag. All material in these containers will be incinerated. You may reassure the public that their privacy is being protected.
- **Q: May we accept medications from a nursing home?** Yes. Medications dispensed to clients in a nursing home are prescribed to the patient and are not the property of the nursing home, so they may be accepted.
- **Q. A local doctor/veterinarian/pharmacy or hospital has outdated drugs they want to drop off. May we accept those as well?** No. Doctors, pharmacies and hospitals purchase drugs direct from wholesalers and MUST keep records of all drugs they receive and dispense or administer. These entities have a system available to them that allows them to return drugs to the supplier or dispose of them by using a DEA registered company to do that for them. If they have any questions, tell them to contact their local DEA office for clarification.
- **Q: Should we count the drugs or keep a log?** No. These drop-offs are intended to be anonymous. Do **NOT** count or inventory the drugs. In fact, we advise you not to touch them at all. Have the consumer toss the container into the bag and they walk away. It is that simple. We are not opening the bags at all. We don't want to risk an accidental needle stick or expose ourselves to whatever contagions may be present and neither should you.

E-Cigarette & Vaping devices Disposal



DEA National Take Back Day Vape Collection Guidance:

- DEA will collect vape pens or other e-cigarette devices from individual consumers **only** after the batteries are removed from the devices. It is important to stress that the DEA is not responsible for removing the batteries from the devices.
- If the battery cannot be removed, individual consumers can check with large electronic chain stores who may accept the vape pen or e-cigarette devices for proper disposal.
- Individual consumers may also contact their local Hazardous Materials Management Facility to determine if they accept these devices, and for additional guidance regarding proper disposal.



Protect Yourself, Protect Others

Safe Options for Home Needle Disposal



A 44-year-old trash collector was stuck in the leg with a needle from someone's trash. A year later, he started having stomach pains. His doctor told him that he had caught Hepatitis C, probably from being stuck by the needle. Doctors have not been able to help him, and he is now in chronic liver failure. He will likely die from this disease.

It's not just trash workers who are at risk of needle sticks—it's also your neighbors, children, janitors, housekeepers, and pets. That's why used needles should not be thrown in the garbage.



Traveling with Needles

Don't forget, safe needle disposal is important no matter where you are—at home, at work, or on the road. Never place used needles in the trash in hotel rooms, on airplanes, or in public restrooms, where they could injure the cleaning staff or other people.

Sharps and Air Travel

Before you fly, check the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Web site (www.tsa.gov) for up-to-date rules on what to do with your needles when you travel. To make your trip through airport security easier, make sure your medicines are labeled with the type of medicine and the manufacturer's name or a drug store label, and bring a letter from your doctor.

Why are used needles dangerous?

Used needles and lancets are dangerous because they can:

- ♦ Injure people
- ♦ Spread germs
- ♦ Spread diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, tetanus, and syphilis

All needles should be treated as if they carry a disease. That means that if someone gets stuck with a needle, they have to get expensive medical tests and worry about whether they have caught a harmful or deadly disease. Be sure you get rid of your used needles the safe way to avoid exposing other people to harm.



Loose needles in trash

DON'T

- ♦ Throw loose needles in the garbage
- ♦ Flush used needles down the toilet
- ♦ Put needles in recycling containers

DO

- ♦ Use one of the recommended disposal methods in this brochure

Remember, not all of the options listed in this brochure are available in all areas. Check carefully to see what options are available near you—it could save a life!



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Recommended Needle Disposal Options for Self-Injectors

Community Services

Drop-off Collection Sites

Some communities offer collection sites that accept used needles—often for free. These collection sites may be at local hospitals, doctors' offices, health clinics, pharmacies, health departments, community organizations, police and fire departments, and medical waste facilities. Don't just leave your needles at one of these places—make sure the site accepts them, and be sure to put needles in the right place.



"Household Hazardous Waste" Centers

Many communities have a disposal site already set up that accepts "household hazardous waste" items like used oil, batteries, and paint. In some places, these centers also accept used needles. If your area has a hazardous household waste center, be sure it accepts used needles before you go, and put needles in the right place when you drop them off.



Residential "Special Waste" Pickup Service

Some communities offer a "special waste" pickup service that collects your full container of used needles from your house. Some services require you to call for a pickup, while others collect used needles on a regular schedule.



Syringe Exchange Programs

These programs let you trade your used needles for new ones. The group that runs the service will dispose of your used needles safely.



Mail-back Service

You can buy this service, which comes with a needle container and mail-back packaging. You fill the needle container with your used needles and mail it back in the package that is provided by the company. You have to pay for this service, and the price usually depends on the size of the container you pick.



Home Needle Destruction Devices

Several manufacturers offer products for sale that allow you to destroy needles at home by burning, melting or cutting off the needle—making it safe to throw in the garbage. Prices vary depending on the product. Before buying any medical device for home use, be sure it's been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).



How Can I Find More Information?

- ♦ Call your trash or public health department, listed in the city or county government (blue) pages in your phone book, to find out about programs available in your area.
- ♦ Check the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Web site at <www.cdc.gov/needledisposal> for a list of needle disposal rules in your state, along with needle disposal programs near you.
- ♦ Ask your health care provider or local pharmacist if they can dispose of your used needles, or if they know of safe disposal programs near you.
- ♦ Contact the Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal at (800) 643-1643 or visit the Web site at <www.safeneedledisposal.org> to find out about safe disposal programs near you.
- ♦ Visit the Earth 911 Web site at <www.earth911.org>. You can go to the "Household Hazardous Waste" section of the site and search for a needle disposal program near you by entering your ZIP code.
- ♦ To learn more about rules regarding medical waste disposal, consult EPA's Medical Waste Web site at <www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical>.

The list on any company, product, or service in this publication does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

How Can I Find More Information?

- For a list of mail-back service companies, contact the Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal at (800) 643-1643 or visit the Web site at <www.safeneedledisposal.org>. When contacting a mail-back service company, be sure to ask them if the service is approved by the U.S. Postal Service.
- For information pertaining to needle destruction devices, please see FDA's Web site at: <<http://www.fda.gov/diabetes/lancing.html#5>>.

Contact the North American Syringe Exchange Program at (253) 272-4857 or visit the Web site at <www.nasen.org>.