

If a medicine take-back is not located near you....

Taking your unwanted medicines to a medicine take-back program is the safest and most environmentally protective way to dispose of them. However, if no take-back locations are available to you, follow these steps before disposing your medicines in the trash. Disguising your medicines before disposing them in the garbage could prevent a child, teen or pet from getting the medicines and accidentally ingesting them.

Disposing medicines if a medicine take-back location is not available:

For chemotherapy drugs, contact your prescribing medical office to see if they will accept the drug. For all other drugs, we recommend that you:

- 1. Keep the medication in its original container.**
- 2. Modify the medications to discourage consumption by adding something unappealing, such as kitty litter or coffee grounds. Do not crush the pills.**
- 3. Tape the container lid shut with tape, place in a sealable bag, and then place in a non-transparent container to ensure that the contents cannot be seen.**
- 4. Discard the container in the garbage. Do not place in the recycling bin. Make sure your trash cannot be accessed by children, pets, or others who might be looking in the garbage for drugs.**

Communities across Washington need access to secure and effective [medicine take-back programs](#).

[Learn more](#).