

MEDICATION & PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISPOSAL



Medicines play a significant role in treating many conditions and illnesses, but when they are no longer needed it's important to dispose of them properly to avoid harm to others and the environment.

Proper Medication Disposal Prevents:

- Health problems from accidentally taking the wrong medicine, too much medicine and expired medicine.
- Poisoning of children and pets.
- Entering waterways when poured down drains or flushed down toilets.
- Intentional misuse.



Be mindful of taking medications in front of children, they tend to mimic adults. Store your medications in a secure area.



The majority of controlled prescription drugs abused are obtained from family or friends, often from home medicine cabinets.¹

¹National Survey on Drug Use and Health, SAMSHA, 2015

Secure Disposal Options:

Once collected, the options listed below include secure transportation and destruction by the PA National Guard Counterdrug Joint Task Force (PA NG Task Force)

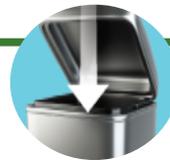
- **National Drug Take Back Days**, are free events staffed by law enforcement personnel.
- **Med-Return Drop Boxes**, Northampton County has installed medicine return boxes at local Municipal Police Departments and the Northampton County Courthouse. Boxes are free to use and medications can be anonymously dropped off. For a list of locations within Northampton County visit www.northamptoncounty.org

If you cannot utilize a drop-off medication box or participate in a Drug Take Back Day, **Follow these steps to dispose of medications in your household trash:**

1. Mix medicines with an unpleasant substance such as dirt, kitty litter,
2. Contain the mixture in a sealed plastic bag.
3. Throw away in your household trash.
4. Mark out personal info from prescription labels on empty pill bottles



Do not crush tablets or capsules.



MED-RETURN Box Locations:

For a list of police department locations within Northampton County visit www.northamptoncounty.org, if you need a wider list of options visit the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration website, enter your city or zip code and additional locations will be generated within your proximity.



Items Accepted: **YES!**

prescriptions, over-the-counter solid medications, tablets, capsules, liquid medications in original containers, prescription patches, medical creams & ointments, vitamins, nasal sprays, pet medications.

Items Not Accepted: **NO!**

intravenous solutions, **injectables*, **syringes*, **needles* (i.e. EpiPens), hydrogen peroxide, compressed cylinders or aerosols (i.e. asthma inhalers), iodine-containing medications, thermometers, alcohol.

**see SHARPS disposal*

