

Prescription Drug Take-Back Boxes

Safe, secure, simple disposal of potentially addictive medications in every Tennessee County

Prescription drug take-back boxes provide a place where Tennesseans can safely dispose of unused medications. Permanent take-back boxes ensure people can dispose their medications of in a safe, environmentally-friendly manner. Medication collection programs and seasonal events are part of a nationwide effort to reduce the amount of pharmaceutical products being flushed or poured down drains. Safe and secure disposal efforts also remove potentially addictive medications from homes and communities and prevent substance misuse.



Take-Back Day Events

Tennessee's Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions team up with law enforcement to host community events for safe and secure disposal of prescription medication. Organized nationally by the Drug Enforcement Administration, these events are always the last Saturday in April and October. During the April 2025 Take-Back Day, Tennesseans safely and securely disposed of more than 17,000 pounds of medication.

Frequently Asked Questions

What can I bring?

Prescription medications in pill or liquid form for yourself, a family member, even a pet are acceptable. Medications do NOT have to be in the original packaging.

What can I NOT bring?

Please do not bring sharps or needles, blood sugar monitoring supplies, thermometers, IV bags, or hazardous medical waste.

What information do you collect?

None! Walk up, deposit your items, and walk away.

Is there a cost?

This service is provided free of charge by a partnership among TDMHSAS, Dept. of Environment and Conservation, and the local agency that hosts the take-back box.

384

Available locations

95

Tennessee counties served by take-back boxes

51

Percentage of rx misuse due to easy access from family and friends

TN

Department of
Mental Health &
Substance Abuse Services

[TN.gov/behavioral-health/takeback](https://tn.gov/behavioral-health/takeback)

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