

Unwanted Pharmaceuticals Take Back Program Frequently Asked Questions

- If your law enforcement agency destroys unwanted pharmaceuticals, the only approved method of disposal is incineration. If your law enforcement agency destroys their own take back items then amounts need to be submitted monthly to The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).
- Approved locations for disposal of unwanted take back items (licensed and permitted):
 - Covanta
 - Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force pick up
- No need to report monthly if unwanted take back items are collected by the Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force.
- Drug terminators or like equipment are not permitted to be used for the destruction of items collected through the unwanted household pharmaceuticals take back program. The only approved method of destruction for the take back program is the collection and pick-up by the Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force division.
- TBI incinerators, located in Jackson, Nashville, and Knoxville are currently only permitted to destroy evidence from law enforcement – NOT take back program items.
- Evidentiary items **CAN'T** be destroyed through the take back program.
- We need two contacts at each location. The contact information needs to include name, office and cell phone numbers, and email address for pickups.
- Requirements to participate in program if Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force is collecting:
 - Bag and Tag your own barrels
 - Storage of material is done in the same manner as evidence
 - Barrels can be requested anytime throughout the year
 - Who to call to schedule pick up or barrel delivery:
Carlos M. Gutierrez
TDDTF ACS Coordinator
423-634-3044 (Office)
901-208-9320 (Mobile)
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- Information about barrel collection and requirements:
 1. The Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force can only take 100 barrels of pills statewide on all burns, EXCEPT on the DEA burn dates in April and October. On the DEA dates, the Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force can pick up unlimited barrels of pills for disposal.
 2. When calling or emailing the Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force, to get on a pickup schedule, they must have a total number of barrels to be collected. That will be the number they will pick up, no more. However, if you are not going to have the amount you thought on your pickup date, they can pick up less and then get another agency on board for that particular pill burn date in order to keep the 100 barrel limit.
 3. There are unlimited numbers of empty pill disposal barrels that can be delivered to your agency upon request, however, please do not call the day before the scheduled pick up and ask for barrels.
 4. Please have the full barrels ready to go when the driver gets to your agency. It is not the Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force's responsibility to get into your take back box and load your pills into the barrels.
 5. We cannot store full pill barrels.
 6. You don't have to, and we don't ask you to empty the pill bottles into the barrels. Everything collected can stay in the barrel including the bottles.
- Pharmacies can't dispose of their collected items from their program at law enforcement locations. The take back box is only for law enforcement.
 - FEDERAL RULE:
Vol. 79 No. 174 Part II 21 CFR Parts 1300, 1301, 1304, et. al.
Disposal of Controlled Substances; Final Rule
https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/fed_regs/rules/2014/2014-20926.pdf
- Coalitions can't and shouldn't handle or touch the take back items. These items must be handled by law enforcement (Coalitions can host take back events but they cannot transport or handle the items collected). https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/21cfr/cfr/1317/subpart_c.htm
 - Title 21 CFR – Part 1317.95 – Destruction Procedures
 - Law enforcement can't drop off collected pills at coalitions for pick up.
- Appropriations that your law enforcement agency puts into the budget that supports the meth clean ups also includes the pill collection program (LEAs pay into the collection program).