



Safe Storage for Prescription Stimulants

Any medication can cause harm if taken in the wrong way or by the wrong person. Practicing safe prescription stimulant storage can help keep families safe.¹

The following considerations for storage of prescription stimulants are from government sources. This information should not serve as medical guidance, but rather as a resource to introduce topics and terms related to the storage of these prescription stimulants



PROPER STORAGE CAN HELP PREVENT ACCIDENTAL OR INTENTIONAL MISUSE:

If not stored properly, prescription stimulants can be found easily in the medicine cabinet or on the kitchen shelf, and family members and visitors could accidentally take or intentionally misuse the medicine.^{2,3}

Prescription stimulants are Schedule II controlled substances and have a high potential for abuse and physical and psychological dependence and may have harmful health effects such as overdose²

Young children may be tempted by colorful pills that may resemble candy to them, so it's important to keep prescription stimulants out of sight and out of reach¹

- Contact the poison control center right away at (800) 222-1222 if you think someone in your home may have accidentally ingested a prescription stimulant, even if you aren't sure¹



SAFE STORAGE AT HOME



CLOSE TIGHTLY¹

Lock the safety cap before putting prescription stimulants away, and if the bottle has a locking cap that turns, twist it until the bottle clicks or cannot twist any further



LOCK IT UP

Put prescription stimulant medicines away every time after use. Schedule II drugs, like prescription stimulants, should be stored in a locked cabinet or other secure storage container (i.e., lock box)^{1,2,4}



PRACTICE SAFE DISPOSAL

Get rid of old medicines as soon as possible³

How? The FDA recommends bringing unused or expired medication to a drug take-back site. If a take-back program is not immediately available, follow directions in your Medication Guide for disposal in the household trash. See our [Safe Disposal Fact Sheet](#) to learn more⁵



INFORM¹

Tell your guests about medicine safety, and direct houseguests, and other visitors to keep purses, bags, or coats that have medicine in them away and out of sight when they are in your home¹



SAFE STORAGE AT SCHOOL



TRANSPORT SECURELY⁶

Prescription stimulants brought to school should be in original containers appropriately labeled by a pharmacist



GIVE MEDICATION TO THE NURSE⁶

Prescription stimulants should be stored securely by a school nurse

Why? Controlled substances, and medicines at risk of misuse or diversion, should not be carried at school



LOCK IT UP⁶

Prescription stimulants should be stored securely by a school nurse

Why? Safe storage diminishes opportunities for easy access, as some individuals may be tempted to steal or share prescription stimulants^{7,8}

¹ Put Your Medicines Up and Away and Out of Sight | Features | CDC. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/features/medicationstorage/index.html>. Published June 17, 2019. Accessed July 2019; ² Prescription for Disaster: How Teens Abuse Medicine.; 2018. https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-11/DEA_PrescriptionForDisaster-2018ed_508.pdf. Accessed July 2019 https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-11/DEA_PrescriptionForDisaster-2018ed_508.pdf. Accessed July 2019; ³ S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. Unwanted Medications. <https://scdhec.gov/environment/recycling-waste-reduction/unwanted-medications>. Published 2018. Accessed July 2019; ⁴ Drug Enforcement Administration. Controlled Substance Schedules. <https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules/>. Accessed August 2019; ⁵ U.S. FDA. How to Dispose of Unused Medicines. FDA Consumer Health Information. <https://www.fda.gov/media/74164/download>. Published December 2013. Accessed July 2019; ⁶ Policy Statement--Guidance for the Administration of Medication in School. Pediatrics. 2009;124(4):1244-1251. <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/124/4/1244.full.pdf>. Accessed July 2019; ⁷ U.S. FDA. Lock it Up: Medicine Safety in Your Home. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/lock-it-medicine-safety-your-home>. Accessed July 2019; ⁸ Volk K. Teen Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse. SAMHSA. <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/hpr-resources/teen-prescription-drug-misuse-abuse>. Published February 29, 2016. Accessed July 2019.