

Safe Disposal for Prescription Stimulant Medications



Remove expired or unused prescription stimulant medications from the home quickly to help reduce the chance that others may accidentally take or intentionally misuse the medicine.¹ The following considerations for disposal of prescription stimulant medications 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 disposal of prescription stimulant medications.

WHY SAFE DISPOSAL IS IMPORTANT

1. Helps lessen the chance for family members to find prescription stimulant medications in their home medicine cabinet or in the kitchen^{2,3}
2. Helps prevent others from accidentally taking the wrong prescription, too much of the same prescription, or a prescription that has expired⁴
3. Helps prevent misuse by children, teenagers and adults⁴

HOW TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF PRESCRIPTION STIMULANT MEDICATIONS

It is important to check your medication guide to ensure proper disposal to reduce the risk of unintentional use, misuse, abuse, or overdose

U.S. Food and Drug Administration recommends two options for properly disposing of prescription stimulant medications:⁵

1. Bring unused prescription stimulant medications to a drug take-back site
2. Throw away in household trash – but do so safely

DISPOSING OF PRESCRIPTION STIMULANT MEDICATIONS OUTSIDE OF THE HOME

The best way to dispose of prescription stimulant medications is through drug take-back programs or registered collection sites⁶

HOW TO FIND A TAKE-BACK PROGRAM

CALL: Contact your city or county government's household trash and recycling service to see if a take-back program is available⁶

LOCATE: Use The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy's Drug Disposal Locator Tool available at <https://safe.pharmacy/drug-disposal/> to find a permanent collection site near you

CHECK: Check with your pharmacist. Some pharmacies have mail-back programs and disposal kiosks for unused prescription stimulant medications⁷

DISPOSING OF PRESCRIPTION STIMULANT MEDICATIONS AT HOME

If there are no take-back programs available in your area and no specific disposal instructions with your prescription stimulant medications, the FDA recommends the following steps:⁷

DISCARD AND COMBINE: Remove prescription stimulant medications from their original container and mix with an undesirable substance such as kitty litter or used coffee grounds

Why? This method makes the prescription stimulant medications less appealing to children and unrecognizable to people who may intentionally go through the trash seeking prescription stimulant medications

DEPOSIT: Place the mixture in a container, can, sealed plastic bag or another container that will prevent the prescription stimulant medications from leaking or breaking out of the garbage bag

DISPOSE: Throw the bag or container into the trash

OTHER HOUSEHOLD DISPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

To protect your identity, remove or scratch out all personal information on prescription stimulant medication label

LEARN MORE

Explore new interactive videos and a digital course on responsible prescription stimulant medication use at home and in school:
adlontherapeutics.com/supporting-responsible-stimulant-use/

See our [Safe Storage Fact Sheet](#)

¹ S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. Unwanted Medications. <https://sodhec.gov/environment/recycling-waste-reduction/unwanted-medications>. Published 2019. Accessed September 2020; ² Prescription for Disaster: How Teens Abuse Medicine. 2018. https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-11/DEA_PrescriptionForDisaster-2018ed_508.pdf. Accessed September 2020; ³ Volk K. Teen Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/hpr-resources/teen-prescription-drug-misuse-abuse>. Published 2020. Accessed September 2020; ⁴ U.S. EPA. How to Dispose of Medicines Properly. <https://archive.epa.gov/region02/capp/web/pdf/ppcpflyer.pdf>. Published October 2009. Accessed September 2020; ⁵ U.S. FDA. Drug Disposal Options. <https://www.fda.gov/media/111887/download>. Accessed September 2020; ⁶ U.S. FDA. How to Dispose of Unused Medicines. FDA Consumer Health Information. <https://www.fda.gov/media/74164/download>. Published December 2013. Accessed September 2020; ⁷ How to Dispose of Unused Medicines. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/where-and-how-dispose-unused-medicines>. Accessed September 2020.