

# How do I Dispose of Unused Opioid Pain Medication?

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## How should I dispose of unused opioids?

The safest way to dispose of old medications is to take them to an authorized “Take-Back” program. A **Take-Back** program is a place that is authorized to receive unused medications. Some communities have Take-Back events, where people can bring back unused medications to a specific location on a specific day and time. Do not flush opioids down the toilet.

## How can I find a Take-Back location on the Internet?

- Department of Environmental Quality Drug Disposal  
<http://www.michigan.gov/deqdrugdisposal>
- Visit <http://Michigan-Open.org/takebackmap> to find a location in your area.

## What can I do with old medications if a Take-Back program is not available to me?

Check to see if the label has specific disposal instructions. If not, follow these simple steps to dispose of most medicines in the household trash.

1. **Mix** medicine (do not crush tablets or capsules) with a bad-tasting substance such as dirt, kitty litter or used coffee grounds
2. **Place** the mixture in a sealed bag or container
3. **Throw** the sealed mixture in household trash
4. **Scratch** out all personal information on the prescription label and dispose of the medicine container. Recycle or trash the empty container.



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