



# Quick Disposal of Dangerous Medications

## Unwanted, Unused, or Expired

Med Destroyer is an economical answer to help facilities and general public comply with EPA directives for on site disposal of unused pharmaceuticals.  
(EPA 821-R-10-006)

# Getting Rid of Medications is a Major Problem in the U.S.

- **100 people die from overdoses every day in the US. –(CDC)**
- **About 19 million tons of pharmaceuticals are dumped into the nation's waste stream yearly!**  
**- EPA 2009**

The Med Destroyer system is a product created and styled to address a serious problem in the health care field and homes. The patented design was developed by a Registered Nurse to replace primitive, dangerous and ineffective methods of medication disposal.

# How medications get accumulated:

- **Hospice:** Left over Morphine, Ativan etc. after pt dies.
- **Homecare:** ½ of 140 pts at home are on a narcotic/psych med either scheduled or PRN
- **Home/Group homes:** Vicodin no longer needed d/t pain from surgery is resolved equals- expired, unused, outdated, discontinued meds in the home.

*No set time limit to rid any meds from a private residence, including assisted living, or group homes of any size. MKE county is saturated with group homes.*

# Months worth of stock piled narcotics in a nursing home.

Wis. code. time  
limit of 3 days to  
destroy narcotics.

Here is an  
opportunity for  
narcotic drug  
abuse or theft for  
street sales.



# **Stock piled at patients home. Narcotics included.**

**A family's son  
died years ago  
and had these  
stashed up in a  
cabinet.**

**Husband dies  
and family has  
more meds to  
get rid of.**

1/6/2017





## How to Dispose of Medicines Properly

**DON'T:** Flush expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs down the toilet or drain unless the label or accompanying patient information specifically instructs you to do so.

**DO:** Return unwanted or expired prescription and over-the-counter drugs to a drug take-back program or follow the steps for household disposal below.

### 1ST CHOICE: DRUG TAKE-BACK EVENTS

To dispose of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, call your city or county government's household trash and recycling service and ask if a drug take-back program is available in your community. Some counties hold household hazardous waste collection days, where prescription and over-the-counter drugs are accepted at a central location for proper disposal.



Courtesy: Upper Meriden Riverkeeper and Algonquin Valley

Drug Take-Back Event

### 2ND CHOICE: HOUSEHOLD DISPOSAL STEPS\*



1. Take your prescription drugs out of their original containers.



2. Mix drugs with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter or used coffee grounds.



3. Put the mixture into a disposable container with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub, or into a sealable bag.



4. Conceal or remove any personal information, including Rx number, on the empty containers by covering it with permanent marker or duct tape, or by scratching it off.



5. The sealed container with the drug mixture, and the empty drug containers, can now be placed in the trash.

Not all Drug  
Take Back  
events accept  
narcotics.

Dangerous  
meds stay in  
the home  
until an  
event.

Current  
Standards

# How to Dispose of Unused Medicines

**I**s your medicine cabinet filled with expired drugs or medications you no longer use? How should you dispose of them?

Most drugs can be thrown in the household trash, but consumers should take certain precautions before tossing them out, according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A few drugs should be flushed down the toilet. And a growing number of community-based "take-back" programs offer another safe disposal alternative.

## Guidelines for Drug Disposal

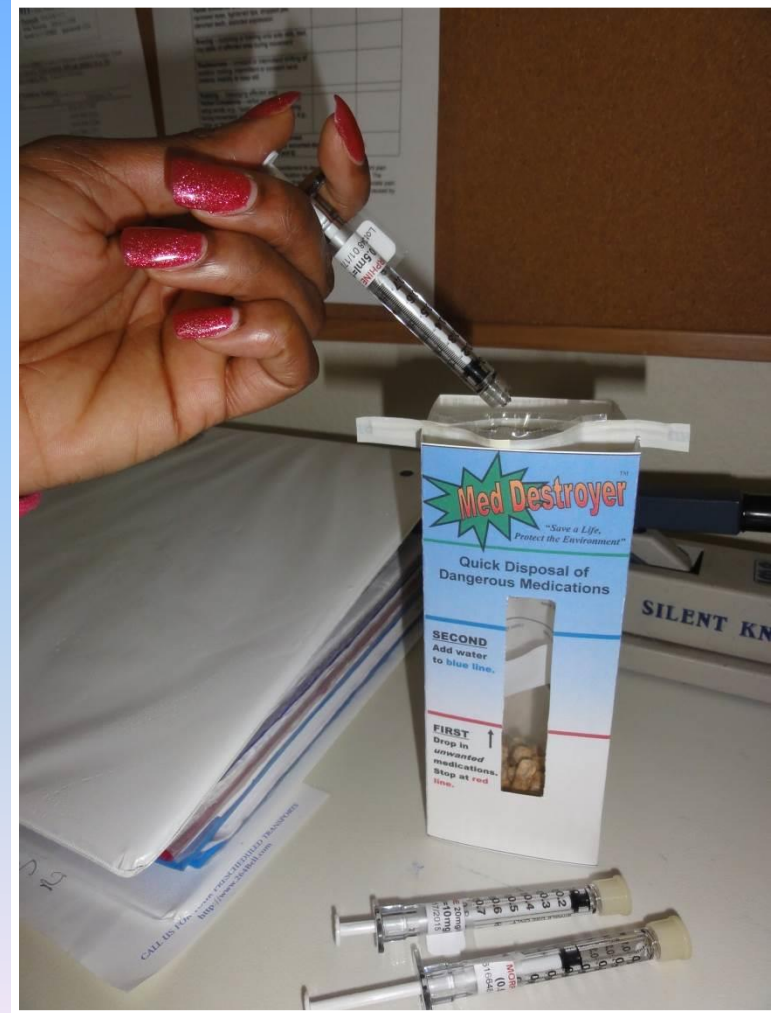
FDA worked with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to develop the first consumer guidance for proper disposal of prescription drugs. Issued by ONDCP in February 2007 and updated in October 2009, the federal guidelines are summarized here:

- Follow any specific disposal instructions on the drug label or patient information that accompanies the medication. Do not flush prescription drugs down the toilet unless this information specifically instructs you to do so.
- Take advantage of community drug take-back programs that allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal. Call your city or county government's household trash and recycling service (see blue pages in phone book) to see if a take-back program is available in your community. The Drug Enforcement Administration, working with state and local law enforcement agencies, is sponsoring National Prescription Drug Take Back Days ([www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov)) throughout the United States.
- If no instructions are given on the drug label and no



*Take drugs out of their original containers and mix them with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds ...*

# Convenient, Economical, Immediate





# Nursing Homes/Group Homes

**Convenient, Economical, Immediate**



**Lock box  
in med cart**

# Hospices/Homecare Home/Group Homes

Convenient, Economical, Immediate



Fits in medicine cabinet.

**Med Destroyer is an all-in-one kit.**  
**Convenient and Immediate according the DEA standards of medication disposal.**





*"Save a Life, Protect the Environment"*

Convenient  
Economical  
Immediate