

Get rid of your unwanted medicines



Proper disposal is important

It's the right environmental choice

Medicines flushed down the drain or disposed of in the trash can contaminate water, harm wildlife and pollute drinking water.

Prevent misuse and addiction

Misuse of and addiction to prescription drugs is at a crisis level in the United States. Four out of five pharmacy-filled prescriptions are opioids. Accidental poisonings are also on the rise. It is important to do your part to prevent your medicines from being used improperly by others.



What is accepted?

Acceptable medicines can vary by medicine box. Find direct links to independent pharmacy acceptability, and a list of what is accepted at medicine boxes managed in partnership with Hennepin County at hennepin.us/medicine.

Not accepted

- ✗ No trash, batteries, medical devices, mercury thermometers or other hazardous materials.
- ✗ No illegal drugs (Schedule 1)
- ✗ No needles, sharps or syringes
Find disposal options for needles, sharps and syringes at: hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide/items/needles-sharps
- ✗ No medicines from businesses
- ✗ No cosmetics and personal care products

If you are visiting a box at an independent pharmacy be sure to visit their website for a full list of what is and is not accepted as there may be additional things besides those listed above.



Store medicines safely at home and on the go

Young people are at risk

Among people 18 to 25 years old, 14.4% reported non-medical use of prescription drugs in the past year. Among youth 12 to 17 years old, 4.9% reported non-medical use of prescription medications. Of teenagers that abuse prescription drugs, 62% say they choose to abuse them because they are easy to get from parents' medicine cabinets.



Keep them safe

Securely store medications that you need regularly. Keep them out of sight and out of reach of others, including children, family, friends and visitors. Between the pharmacy and your home, store prescription bags and bottles in your trunk or out of sight.

Consider investing in a lock box, or install a lock on a cabinet for medicine storage. Keep medications in their original containers.

- Do not save or share unused medications.
- Dispose of unused medications at a medicine drop box.

Learn more about safe storage at hennepin.us/safestorage

Drop box locations

There are over 65 medicine drop boxes in Hennepin County and the program continues to expand.



Visit hennepin.us/medicine for a full list of locations.

My closest medicine drop box is:

Hennepin County
Environment and Energy
environment@hennepin.us
612-348-3777

34-504-02-23

