



Fact Sheet

Oregon Drug Take-Back Program

The Drug Take-Back Program offers Oregon residents a convenient, safe, and secure way to dispose of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medicines, free of charge. Information on unwanted medicine disposal opportunities is available at medtakebackoregon.org or by calling **844-482-5322**. The program also provides education and outreach on safe drug disposal and was established by [ORS 459A.200 to 459A.266](#).



Why is safe medicine disposal important?

Leftover or expired medicines can pose serious environmental and health risks. Unwanted medicines left in a household can lead to accidental poisonings, addiction, or abuse. Medicines thrown in the garbage or flushed down the toilet can contaminate rivers or groundwater.

How can I dispose of my unwanted medicines through the program?

Oregon residents can dispose of their unwanted medicines through the program in the following ways:

- **In-person disposal at a drop-off site:** Take your unwanted household medicines to a participating drop-off site (typically a pharmacy or law enforcement agency) and dispose of the medicines in an on-site secure repository.
- **Mail-back:** You can request a pre-paid, pre-addressed envelope to be sent to you; you then mail in your unused medicines for disposal.

In some cities, there may also be collection events or other services, such as community locations where mail-back envelopes can be picked up in-person.

Collection services are for household disposal, not pharmaceutical waste from businesses. Per ORS 459A.200, services are available to Oregon residents, including members of Oregon tribes; nonbusiness entities in Oregon; and ultimate users, as defined by 21 U.S.C. 802(27). The program is not intended for law enforcement agencies or entities that generate pharmaceutical waste, such as a hospital, health care clinic, health care provider's office, veterinary clinic or pharmacy.

How can I find a drop-off site or order a mail-back envelope?

Website: medtakebackoregon.org

Toll-Free Telephone Number: **844-482-5322**

What drugs does the program accept?

The program accepts prescription drugs; OTC drugs; drugs marketed under a brand name; drugs marketed under a generic name; and combination products.

Translation or other formats

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800-452-4011 | TTY: 711 | deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov

What products are not accepted?

See ORS 459A.200(5)(c) for the full list of what's not accepted. Examples of what's not accepted include exposed sharps; vitamins or supplements; herbal-based remedies or homeopathic products; cosmetics that are also regulated as nonprescription drugs; and emptied injector products or medical devices and their components.

What happens to collected drugs?

By law, collected drugs must be destroyed at a hazardous waste disposal facility, a municipal solid waste incinerator permitted to accept pharmaceutical waste, or a hospital, medical and infectious waste incinerator.

How is the program implemented?

The program is operated by two program operators on behalf of drug manufacturers: The Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation and MED-Project, USA. Program operators must operate their programs in accordance with ORS 459A.200 to 459A.266 and all applicable federal and state laws, and pursuant to program plans approved by DEQ.

What is DEQ's role?

DEQ provides administrative oversight to ensure the program operates in compliance with ORS 459A.200 to 459A.266 and the program operators' approved plans. The Oregon Board of Pharmacy is a partner with DEQ for aspects of compliance monitoring.

How can pharmacies and law enforcement agencies participate in the program?

Pharmacies, law enforcement agencies and other potential authorized collectors, as defined in ORS 459A.200, have an opportunity to participate as a drop-off site and host a kiosk for people to dispose of unwanted drugs in-person. Participation as a drop-off site is voluntary.

Regarding tribal pharmacies and tribal law enforcement agencies, if a program operator enters into an agreement with a tribal pharmacy that registers with the Oregon Board of Pharmacy or a tribal law enforcement agency to collect drugs, DEQ will consider the pharmacy or law enforcement agency as part of the program's network of authorized collectors.

Are all medicine kiosks in Oregon part of the Drug Take-Back Program?

No. Private collection sites can continue to operate independently outside the program. A private collection site is not required to, but may choose to, enter into an agreement with a program operator to be an authorized collector for the program.

Collection sites outside the program may have separate standards on what drugs will be accepted. To avoid public confusion, medtakebackoregon.org includes information only on drop-off sites and other services offered by a drug take-back program operated pursuant to a DEQ-approved plan.

For more information

For additional assistance, contact DEQ's Materials Management Program.

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More information on the program's administration is available at [DEQ's Drug Take Back Program page](#).

Non-discrimination statement

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