DID YOU KNOW?

Prescription drug abuse is the fastest growing drug problem in the US.

• **1 in 4 teens** report having misused or abused prescription medicine at least once. More than half of teens said it was easy to get these medicines from their parent’s medicine cabinet.

• **More people die** from prescription drugs overdoses than from car accidents or overdoses of street drugs such as cocaine and heroin.

• **71 percent of people** who abuse prescription pain killers obtain them from a friend or relative.

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DISPOSAL PROGRAMS

**DEA & Law Enforcement Take-Back**

- Visit [dea.gov](http://dea.gov) for the dates/locations of the DEA National Take-Back Initiative in the Spring and Fall of each year
- Visit [colorado.gov/cdphe/rxdrug](http://colorado.gov/cdphe/rxdrug) for law enforcement take-back locations
- Accepted medicines: all medicines except syringes and injectables
- These sites accept narcotics and controlled substances (Percocet, Oxycontin, Vicodin, Xanax, Ritalin, Adderall, etc.)

  **No questions asked!**

**Colorado Medication Take-Back Project**

- Call (303) 692-2903 or visit [coloradomedtakeback.info](http://coloradomedtakeback.info) for a list of locations
- Accepted medicines: over-the-counter medicines (vitamins, cough and cold pills, etc.), prescription medicines (pills, inhalers, creams/ointments, patches, etc.), and pet medicines
- Not Accepted: Narcotics and other controlled substances, syringes or injectable medicines.

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**Pain Killer Abuse: Sources**

- Obtained from friend or relative: 71.2%
- Obtained from doctor: 17.3%
- Got drug from dealer or stranger: 7.1%
- Other source: 4.4%

Source: CDC 2011

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**Safe drug disposal saves lives and protects drinking water supplies**

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**Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention**

This guide only applies to household pharmaceutical waste.

April 2014
You can help by monitoring your drugs and disposing of them properly

**DO:**

- Store safely and dispose wisely.
- **Store your medicines safely** away from children or others who could take your medicine without your permission. This may mean locking up your medicines.
- **Practice safe disposal** by taking unused or expired medicines to a disposal location (see list on back panel).

**DON'T:**

- **Flush pills or liquid medication** down the toilet or drain. Flushing pollutes drinking water and potentially harms aquatic life.

*Studies have detected medicines in our water supplies.*

*If you have no other choice, you can throw most medicines in household trash if you follow these steps:*

- Remove medicine from containers and destroy labels to help protect privacy. Recycle containers if possible or hide them in the trash.
- Mix medicine with something that cannot be eaten, such as used cat litter or coffee grounds, to prevent accidental or intentional misuse of medicine by children or animals.
- Wrap the mixture in another material, such as newsprint or a paper sack, or place medicine in sealable containers (cans, plastic bags).
- Throw in the trash on the day your garbage is collected.

**Syringes & Sharps:**

- Place syringes and other injectables in a rigid (empty laundry detergent) or metal container with a screw-on cap.
- Place a label/warning on the container (Example: Syringes – Do Not Recycle).
- Place sealed containers in the trash, not recycling.
- Or purchase a sharps container at your pharmacy. Your pharmacy may sell pre-labeled, mail-back containers.

**Patches:**

- Only for used fentanyl or Duragesic pain patches: fold in half, sticky side together, and flush down the toilet. These patches are dangerous if not flushed immediately after use.
- Take unopened patches to the DEA National Take-Back Initiative or to a local law enforcement drop-box.
- Use the Colorado Medication Take-Back Project or DEA National Take-Back Initiative for proper disposal of other patches.