Here are three steps you can take to ensure the safe use, storage, and disposal of prescription drugs.

**SAFE USE**
Only take medication prescribed to you by a doctor. Only use it in the prescribed dosage. And never share prescription drugs with friends or family.

**SAFE STORAGE**
Store prescription medication locked and out of reach of kids, family, and guests. Know where it is at all times. Keep it in its original bottle with its label.

**SAFE DISPOSAL**
Most prescription drugs should NOT be flushed down the toilet or washed down the sink. In Vermont, you can drop off your medications at a permanent disposal site. Proper disposal helps avoid harming water sources, wildlife, pets, and people.

**LOCATE YOUR LOCAL DISPOSAL SITE**
Have unused or expired medication? **Get rid of it.**

Drop off your unused medications at a permanent disposal site. Contact your local law enforcement agency, ask your pharmacist, or dial 2-1-1 for the location of your nearest year-round drop-off site.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**
Dropping off your unused medications is not always possible. If there is no take back program in your area, follow disposal instructions on the drug label or patient information. Some medicines, like Fentanyl patches, can be extremely dangerous and specific disposal directions are advised.

For more information about disposal instructions contact your local pharmacist or the FDA at 888-INFO-FDA. Or, visit the Disposal of Unused Medicines: What You Should Know page at www.fda.gov.

**SHARPS**
Do not bring needles, syringes, lancets, auto injectors, or other sharps to take-back programs. Never place loose needles and other sharps in trash cans or recycling bins, and never flush them down the toilet. This puts people and pets at risk of being hurt. Visit healthvermont.gov for instructions on how to dispose of sharps.

To locate a permanent disposal site in your community, dial 2-1-1.
DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly 70% of people ages 12 or older who abused prescription pain relievers got them from friends or relatives.

RESOURCES

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
healthvermont.gov or 800-464-4343

VERMONT 2-1-1 RESOURCE DATABASE
vermont211.org or 2-1-1

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
dps.vermont.gov or 802-241-5000

VERMONT ALCOHOL AND DRUG INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE
vadic.org or 800-769-2798

VERMONT RECOVERY NETWORK
vtrecoverynetwork.org or 802-738-8998

PARENTUP: RESOURCES FOR VERMONT PARENTS
parentupvt.org

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND POISON CENTER
nnepc.org or 800-222-1222

U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)
fda.gov or 888-INFO-FDA

U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA)
justice.gov/dea or 800-882-9539

THE PARTNERSHIP AT DRUGFREE.ORG
drugfree.org

Safely store and throw away unused or expired medicine. It prevents misuse.