

Medicine Safety

Each year, thousands of children are treated in emergency departments after finding and ingesting medicine, or after being given the wrong amount. After ensuring your children get the right amount of medicine, it's just as important to make sure the medicine is immediately returned to a safe storage location.



Safe Storage

- Keep medicine out of sight and reach of children. Don't just put medicine down, put it away.
- Keep medications in the original container with the label.
- Lock the safety cap after each use.
- Remind guests to keep purses, bags, or coats that have medicine in them up and away.
- While traveling, find a safe storage place - like a high cabinet or a safe.
- Dispose of expired or unneeded medication.



Safe Disposal

The best way to dispose of most types* of unused or expired medicines (both prescription and over-the-counter) is to drop off the medicine at a drug take-back site, location, or program immediately.



[Find a disposal site near you.](#)

If you cannot get to a drug take back location promptly, or there are none near you and your medicine is:

- **ON the FDA flush list**, your next best option is to flush these potentially dangerous medicines down the toilet immediately.
- **NOT on the FDA flush list**, you should follow [these instructions](#) to discard the medicine in your trash at home.

*Note: Disposing of needles and other sharps requires specific instructions for proper disposal.

Disposal of Sharps

1. Put a warning on the empty bottle.
2. Place sharps in the bottle.
3. Put cap on the bottle.
4. Secure cap and throw into household trash, when the bottle is 3/4 full.