



Project Medicine Drop

Project Medicine Drop is an initiative involving the installation of "prescription drug drop boxes" at participating New Jersey police departments.

Project Medicine Drop allows the public to dispose of unused and expired prescription medications safely, securely, and anonymously. The opportunity is available seven days a week, 365 days a year.

This initiative builds on the success of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's National Take Back Initiative, and the American Medicine Chest Challenge, which is sponsored in New Jersey by the DEA, Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey, and Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey. Both programs provide single-day opportunities to drop off unused medications at pre-identified, secure locations.

Project Medicine Drop provides the opportunity to discard unused expired prescription medications, **every day** throughout the year. The participating police agencies maintain custody of the deposited drugs, and dispose of them according to their normal procedures for the custody and destruction of controlled dangerous substances. They report the quantity of discarded drugs to the Division of Consumer Affairs on a quarterly basis.

Consumers from anywhere in New Jersey may deposit their medications in any of the drop boxes.

For safety reasons, the Project Medicine Drop **boxes can only accept** solid medications such as pills, patches, inhalers, and similar objects.

The **boxes cannot accept** liquids, medical waste, or syringes. Consumers wishing to dispose of these objects should speak with their doctors or pharmacists to find the safest and best ways to dispose of them.

It should also be noted that consumers may only dispose of **legal** prescription or over-the-counter medications. Anyone wishing to dispose of any illicit drug, should follow the normal procedure of reporting it to the police.

Consumers are NOT advised to flush unused medications down the drain, or simply discard them in the trash.

Scientists have expressed concerns about the effects of medications being released into the water supplies after having been flushed down the toilet or sink, and the U.S. Geological Survey has found traces of pharmaceuticals in streams in 30 states. Simply placing drugs in the trash creates the potential that they will be found by those seeking to sell or abuse them.

The Ocean Township Police Department maintains a “Project medicine Drop” box in the lobby of the police department at 50 Railroad Ave. in Waretown, NJ which is available 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

For more information or questions please contact Detective Jeremy Samuel via his email at JSamuel@twpoceannj.gov or via phone at 609-693-4007 ext 318.