

9/28/2017

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY IS OCT. 28

The federal Drug Enforcement Administration is sponsoring the 14th National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, Oct. 28. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the public will be able to safely dispose of unused, expired and unwanted prescription medications at collection sites throughout California and the United States.

Consumers can search online by ZIP code or by city and state to find participating collection sites at the DEA's Diversion Control Division [search page](#). Disposal sites will accept prescription medications in pill or patch forms – including controlled substances – but no liquids, sharps or needles. The service is free and anonymous – no questions asked.

Pharmacies are encouraged to spread the word about National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day to their patients and customers. Besides providing a convenient service for consumers, the event addresses an important public health and safety issue. Unused prescription medications in home medicine cabinets are susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. In addition, disposing of medications by flushing them down the toilet or tossing them in the trash poses hazards to the environment.

Promotional materials that pharmacies can use to spread the word about National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day are [available online](#) from the DEA. The site includes posters, information pamphlets and other materials in English and Spanish that can be downloaded, printed and posted or distributed in pharmacies.

The DEA has sponsored National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day twice a year for the last seven years. Last April, Americans turned in 450 tons of unwanted prescription drugs at almost 5,500 collection sites operated by the DEA and more than 4,200 sites operated by state and local law enforcement agencies nationwide. Additional information is available at the DEA Diversion Control Division [website](#).

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