SAVE A LIFE

DISPOSE DRUGS SAFELY

Disposing of expired, unused or unwanted drugs the right way can protect people and the environment. Here is why drug disposal is important:

**Drug overdose** is the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S. More people die from drug overdoses than car accidents.¹

70,000 children go to the hospital each year for medication errors.² Unused drugs contribute to this.³

69% of people who misused pain medication got them from a friend or relative.⁴

80% of new heroin users began by misusing pain drugs ordered by their doctor.⁵

SAFELY STORE DRUGS BEFORE DISPOSAL⁶

**STEP 1**

Keep drugs in the container you received them in.

**STEP 2**

Lock the container in a cool, dry place out of reach of children and pets.
SAFELY DISPOSE OF DRUGS

OPTION 1: DRUG TAKE BACK
Find a Michigan household drug take back site near you. For a list of sites, visit Michigan.gov/EGLEDrugDisposal.

OPTION 2: DISPOSAL RECIPE
If you can’t get to a drug take back site, use the recipe below as a last resort to dispose of expired, unused or unwanted drugs.

Disposal Recipe
(Do not dispose chemotherapy drugs this way, talk to your presribing doctor instead.)

Step 1: Mix drugs (do not crush) with dirt, kitty litter or used coffee grounds and add a small amount of water to dissolve any solid medications.

Step 2: Seal drugs in plastic bag.

Step 3: Place plastic bag in trash.

Step 4: Take prescription container and scratch out personal information, then recycle or throw away.

REFERENCES: