



## It's Important to Safely Remove Opioids from Your Home

Help keep your family and community safe, starting in your home—get rid of any unused or expired prescription opioids that may be in cabinets, drawers, or anywhere else you store medicine. Remove these medicines as soon as possible to reduce the chance of accidental or intentional opioid misuse.

Keeping unused opioids in the home creates a serious health risk, especially if teens or children live with or visit you.

Remember:

- Don't share your opioid prescription with others.
- Store opioids out of sight and out of reach of children or teens in your home.
- Dispose of unused opioids safely when there is no longer a medical need for them.



Visit [howardcountymd.gov/store-safely](https://howardcountymd.gov/store-safely) today to learn more.

**THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND YOU**

[hchealth.org](https://hchealth.org) | 410.313.6202

Messaging supported through funding from Maryland Department of Health and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

**THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND YOU**

## Store Safely

Keep your medications stored **UP** and **AWAY**, and learn how to dispose of them safely.



**HC HOWARD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**Promote. Preserve. Protect.**

## What is an Opioid?

Prescription opioids are powerful pain-reducing medicines that include oxycodone, hydrocodone, morphine, and others. Doctors prescribe opioids after surgeries and for injuries; however, these medicines can have serious risks if they are misused by accident or on purpose.

## Why is Opioid Disposal Important?

Prescription opioid misuse is one of the most common types of illegal drug use in the United States. Many people who misused prescription pain-reducing medicine said that they got it from a friend or relative.

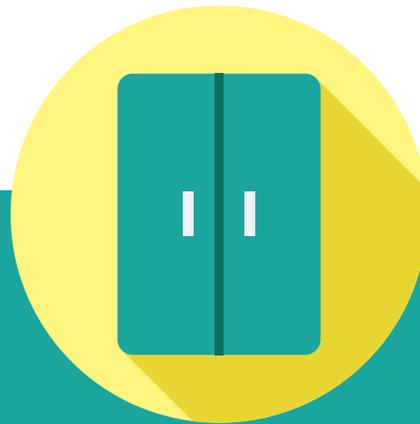
## How Do I Safely Dispose of Opioids?

1. Is a medicine take-back option readily available? If so, this is the preferred option.
2. If not, is the medicine on the FDA " flush list"? If it is, flush it down the toilet.
3. Otherwise, throw it away in the household trash, following the directions at [FDA.gov/DrugDisposal](https://www.fda.gov/drugdisposal).

Find places to dispose of meds by visiting [howardcountymd.gov/store-safely](https://www.howardcountymd.gov/store-safely).



**Be sure all medications use child-resistant packaging.**



**Store all medications up and away, completely out of sight.**



**Find locations to properly dispose of unwanted medications.**