

WHY SHOULD I DISPOSE?

Prescription opioids are often involved in accidental poisonings and intentional misuse. Remove the risk from your home by disposing of any leftover opioids when you are done using them.



Every 10 minutes a child visits the ER for accidental medication poisoning.



7 of 10 people who misuse opioids got them from a friend or family member.



3 of 5 teenagers say it is easy to get prescription opioids from their parents medicine cabinet.



3 of 4 people who use heroin started with prescription opioids.

Sharing or selling opioids is a felony.

OPEN is partially funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
<https://doi.org/10.56137/OPEN.000001>
Updated 11.22

MICHIGAN-OPEN.ORG

OPIOIDS SAFE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL



OPEN

Evidence. Resources. Engagement.

STORAGE

Store opioids out of sight and reach of children, teenagers, and pets.

TIPS FOR STORING SAFELY:

- Lock up medications if possible.
 - Try a medication lock box, safe, or drawer with a lock!
- Store opioids in private areas, do not store in common rooms like the bathroom or kitchen.
 - Do not store in a purse.
- Keep count of how much medication is left.
- Talk about the risks of opioids with family and friends.

Find a safe disposal location near you.



<https://michigan-open.org/safe-opioid-disposal/>

DISPOSAL

Talk with your pharmacist about home disposal options such as medication deactivation bags and mail back envelopes. Options are ranked below.

HOW DO I DISPOSE SAFELY?

- Use home disposal options such as a deactivation bag or medication mail-back envelope.
- Use a permanent medication drop box. Try the QR code to find a location near you.
- Drop off opioids and medications at a community Take Back Event.
- Use your trash as a last resort:
 - Mix opioids (do not crush) with used coffee grounds or kitty litter in a bag and throw away.
 - Take personal information off of the prescription label before disposal.



DO NOT flush medications down the toilet.