Safe Medication Disposal

Prescription medication plays an important role in treating certain conditions. Unused or expired medications should be properly disposed of to avoid harm. For example, pain medication (opioids) can be very effective for treating pain, but prolonged use or misuse can lead to addiction, accidental poisoning or overdose.

80%+
Of older adults (ages 57 to 85 years) use at least one prescription medication daily[1]

16 million
Americans aged 12 or older misuse prescriptions in a year[1]

62%
Of teens report misusing prescription medications because they can access them from their parent's medicine cabinets[1]

Proper disposal of unused medications saves lives.

PALO ALTO COUNTY

Safe Home Disposal

Medication disposal packets are available at your local pharmacy to support safe disposal of unused medications at home. Scan the QR code for an instructional video.

Deterra ® Drug Deactivation System

1) Pour medication in Deterra ® pouch and fill 1/2 with water.
2) Wait 30 seconds, seal, shake and dispose in trash.

https://deterrasystem.com/resources/videos/ (Link)

Drop-Off Locations

You can safely dispose of unused or expired medications locally at one of the permanent drug disposal drop-off locations below.

+ **Hughes HealthMart Pharmacy**
2216 Main St
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-2886

+ **Hy-Vee Pharmacy #7036**
3402 Main St
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-298-4142

+ **Palo Alto County Sheriff's Office**
2001 11th St
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-3535

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Source: "Prescription Drug Abuse Statistics." National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics, Jan 1, 2025. https://drugabusestatistics.org/prescription-drug-abuse-statistics/.