

Free medication and sharps disposal on Saturday, April 25

Spring is a great time to clean out your home including your medicine cabinet. It is also a helpful reminder to safely dispose of unused medications and sharps.

Drug Take-Back Day is happening on **Saturday, April 25** in Altoona, Eau Claire, and Fairchild.

For many of us, it is a familiar sight: an expired prescription tucked in the cupboard, or an old inhaler sitting in a bedside drawer. While it may seem harmless to keep them around, unused medications can pose serious risks.

Kids or pets can find unused or expired medication and accidentally swallow them, or medications left in the home can sometimes fall into the hands of people who shouldn't be using them. This can lead to accidental poisoning or overdose.

Don't flush old medications or pour them down the drain. When we flush or pour medications down the drain, they can end up in our groundwater. Improperly disposed of sharps put emergency responders, community members, and pets at risk for an injury and the spread of infections.

Stop by a Drug Take-Back Day event on Saturday, April 25, starting at 10am.

Here's what you can bring: medications, pills, ointments, patches, non-aerosol sprays, inhalers, creams, vials, and pet medications. Liquid medication is also accepted in the original container. You can also bring sharps, including needles, syringes, lancets, or auto injectors.

Curbside drop-off will be available at each location, making it quick and easy to safely dispose of these items.

- **Altoona Police Department**
1904 Spooner Ave.
10am - 2pm
- **Eau Claire County Government Center**
721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire
10am - 2 pm
- **Fairchild Village Hall**
331 Oak Street
10am - noon

All you need to do is remove or cover up any personal information on the prescription label, then drop your medications off. You don't even need to get out of your car. Just pull up next to the Take-Back Day signs and roll down your car window and our volunteers will take it from there.

The Health Department and local law enforcement agencies hold take-back day events every spring and fall, when anyone can drop off old medications at local sites for free disposal. Learn more by visiting: www.ECHealthAlliance.org/news

Safely disposing of medication keeps everyone in our community safer.

Can't make it to Take-Back Day? Stop by a permanent medication or sharps drop box in your neighborhood. There are 13 medication drop boxes and 11 sharps drop boxes available throughout Eau Claire County. Find a drop box near you by visiting bit.ly/MedDropBoxes and qrco.de/sharps

Last year, you've helped us dispose of over 3,600 pounds of medication through Take-Back Day events and permanent medication drop boxes. Thank you for making our community a safer place for all of us.

Sarah Dillivan-Pospisil, MPH, is a public health specialist with the Eau Claire City-County Health Department.