



# THE COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK PROGRAM

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[www.cookcountysheriff.org/rx/home](http://www.cookcountysheriff.org/rx/home)



According to the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (“DEA”), most abused prescription drugs come from family and friends. The DEA has described unused or expired prescription medication as a “public safety” issue, leading to accidental poisoning, overdose and abuse.



Pharmaceutical drugs can be just as dangerous as street drugs when taken without a prescription or a doctor’s supervision. Most teenagers abusing prescription drugs get them from family and friends—and the home medicine cabinet. Unused prescription drugs thrown into the trash can be retrieved and abused or illegally sold.



Just as troubling, everyday prescription drugs are dumped down drains, toilets, and in garbage. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment.

In 2012, the Cook County Sheriff’s Office began its collaboration with the DEA. Permanent collection boxes were installed at each of the circuit court houses as well as the County Building to permit county residents to properly anonymously dispose of their prescriptions at each location while ensuring proper control of these drugs.

The Sheriff’s Prescription Drug Take Back Program also began assisting suburban towns and villages as well as Chicago wards by sponsoring Pharmaceutical Take-Back events.

On October 28, 2016, the Cook County Board of Commissioners authorized the Cook County Sheriff’s Prescription Drug Take Back Program to implement a comprehensive pharmaceutical drug collection and disposal program to assist residents throughout Cook County with free programming to properly disposing of unused and unexpired prescription drugs.

The Sheriff’s Prescription Drug Collection Program includes a webpage ([www.cookcountysheriff.org/rx/home](http://www.cookcountysheriff.org/rx/home)), a mail back service for seniors and homebound disabled adults, and a toll-free hotline with information for accessing pharmaceutical drug collection sites is available for Cook County residents with pre-recorded messages in English, Spanish, Polish, Russian, Arabic, Chinese and Korean along with program information displayed on our webpage in the seven languages. To learn more from our toll-free hotline, please call 1-84-GOT USED RX? (1-844-688-7379).

Today, the Sheriff’s Prescription Drug Take Back Program partners with over 100 local jurisdictions throughout Cook County and with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, which assists with grant funding for collection and disposal of collected drugs and provides collection sites at its main water treatment sites. Together, we are diverting more than one ton (2,000 pounds) per month) of unwanted prescription drugs from landfills, waterways, and unauthorized use.

Join thousands of Cook County residents by turning over your unwanted medicines to us.

## Medicines Accepted

Medicines sold in any form

- Prescription medications
- Non-prescription (over-the-counter medications)
- Controlled substances (such as OxyContin, Ritalin)
- Pet medications

## NOT Accepted for Return

- Herbal Remedies
- Personal Care Products
- Sharps
- Medicines from Businesses
- Vitamins
- Aerosols
- Illicit Drugs
- Pet Pesticide Products
- Supplements
- Inhalers
- Iodine-Containing Products
- Compressed Cylinders
- Cosmetics
- Medical Devices

