



Hazardous Waste

DEQ's mission is to be a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water. (</deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/hw>)

(</deq/>)

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New Hazardous Waste Rules Effective Jan. 1, 2022!

Oregon adopted several federal hazardous waste rules. All generators are impacted. [Learn more \(/deq/hazards-and-cleanup/hw/pages/hw-rules.aspx\)](/deq/hazards-and-cleanup/hw/pages/hw-rules.aspx).

New system for Annual Generator Reporting: Register today!

Find instructions, FAQs and webinar dates to register a Your DEQ Online user account (</deq/Permits/Pages/Account-Registration.aspx>)

Drug Take-Back Program

[HAZARDOUS WASTE](#) ▾

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[HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE](#) ▾

[INFECTIOUS WASTE](#) ▾

Program overview

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality oversees the Drug Take-Back Program, which offers Oregon residents a convenient, safe, and secure way to dispose of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medicines.

Find a participating drop-off site

Safe Drug Disposal website (<https://medtakebackoregon.org/>)
Toll-Free Telephone: 844-482-5322

Why is safe medicine disposal important?

Leftover or expired medicines can pose a number of serious environmental and health risks. If not disposed, unused medicines can fall into the wrong hands and lead to accidental poisonings, addiction or abuse. Medicines can also have health and environmental impacts when they end up in a landfill or are flushed down the toilet or drain. Wastewater treatment plants and septic systems are usually not equipped to treat pharmaceuticals and chemical compounds from these medicines can pass through treatment plants or septic systems to our rivers or groundwater.

How does it work?

It's never been easier! The Drug Take-Back Program makes it more convenient to safely dispose of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medicines in two ways. There is no charge for either service.

- **Take your unwanted household medicines to a drop-off site:** You can take your unwanted medicines to a participating drop-off site and dispose of them in the on-site secure repository. You don't need to show ID or fill out any paperwork to use the drop-off site.
- **Mail-back:** You can request and receive a pre-paid, pre-addressed envelope and mail in your unused medicines for disposal.

Program operators may also offer collection of unwanted drugs through events.

Collection services are for household disposal, not pharmaceutical waste from businesses. Per ORS 459A.200, services are available to:

- Oregon residents;
- Non-business entities in Oregon; and
- Ultimate users, as defined by 21 U.S.C. 802(27)

Program services are not intended for law enforcement agencies or entities that generate

Contact

Michael Lee
(mailto:michael.lee@deq.state.or.us)
Program Coordinator
503-229-6832

Sign up for email or text updates on this program via GovDelivery (https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/topic_id=ORDEQ_656).

pharmaceutical waste, such as a hospital, health care clinic, health care provider office, veterinary clinic or pharmacy.

As part of its oversight, DEQ reviewed and approved plans by two program operators to implement statewide drug take-back programs in Oregon. In partnership with the Oregon Board of Pharmacy, DEQ also monitors program operators for compliance. The Program is funded by drug manufacturers and free of charge to Oregon residents.

- **Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation**

Website: safemedicinedrop.com (<https://safemedicinedrop.com/>)
Telephone: 1-888-371 0717
Email: take-back@inmar.com (<mailto:take-back@inmar.com>)

- **MED-Project USA**

Website: med-project.org/locations/oregon (<https://med-project.org/locations/oregon/>)
Telephone: 1-844-482-5322 or 1-844-4-TAKE-BACK
Email: oregon@med-project.org (<mailto:oregon@med-project.org>)

Note: There may be other unwanted medicine drop-box sites in your area that are not part of the statewide drug take-back programs. Resources to find these sites include the DEA website (<https://apps2.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e1s1>) and possibly your local jurisdiction. Prior to the Program's launch, DEQ also compiled a list (</deq/FilterDocs/LawEnfPharmaDropBox.pdf>) of law enforcement agencies that collected unwanted medicines. While some of these law enforcement agencies have joined a drug take-back program, others may still be operating independently. Since such sites are independently operated, consider contacting them in advance to see if the sites are still operational, their hours of operation, and the types of drugs and other healthcare products that they will accept. Twice a year, usually in April and October, the DEA also holds a drug take-back event, known as National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day (</deq/FilterDocs/LawEnfPharmaDropBox.pdf>), to collect unwanted medicines.

Program implementation +

Information for potential authorized collectors and local governments ×

Pharmacies, law enforcement agencies and other potential authorized collectors, as defined in ORS 459A.200, have an opportunity to join a statewide program as authorized collectors and offer their communities a safe and secure way to dispose of unwanted drugs.

Authorized collectors will host collection kiosks for program operators. A program operator will service the kiosk for the authorized collectors, transport the pharmaceutical waste and ensure its proper disposal. Drug manufacturers are responsible for the cost of collection and disposal.

Examples of authorized collectors for a drug take-back program:

- A person who is registered with the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States Department of Justice and qualifies under federal law to collect and dispose of controlled substances, or qualifies under federal law to have the person's registration modified in such a way that authorizes the person to collect and dispose of controlled substances.
- A law enforcement agency.

Potential authorized collectors interested in becoming a drop-off site can contact the program operators directly:

- **The Drug Takeback Solutions Foundation**

Kirk Herweck, Director of Consumer Drug Take-Back Solutions
Email: take-back@inmar.com (<mailto:take-back@inmar.com>)
Phone: 1-800-350-0397, option #5

- **MED-Project USA**

Dr. Victoria Travis, National Program Director
MED-Project USA
3439 NE Sandy Blvd.
Unit 3620

Portland, OR 97232
Email: oregon@med-project.org (<mailto:oregon@med-project.org>)
Phone: 1-833-633-7765

In areas where a program operator is unable to establish a drop-off site, the program operator may seek DEQ approval to provide additional services or host collection events.

Local governments should program operators directly if they have questions about what the programs will offer in their jurisdiction, including possible additional services or collection events if drop-off sites are not established.

Resources



Information for drug manufacturers



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(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCttWs-KaadO0yevwABS0MmA>)



Follow on LinkedIn

([https://www.linkedin.com/company/oregon-department-environmental-quality](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oregon-department-of-environmental-quality))

Vehicle Inspection Program Contacts

Vehicle Inspection Program home page (<https://deq/vehicle>)

Inspection/Pages/default.aspx

(/deq/Vehicle-

Inspection/Pages/default.aspx) **Submit**

a Question or a Comment (/deq/Vehicle-Inspection/Pages/Contact-general.aspx)

Portland Area: 503-229-5066

Medford Area: 541-776-6145

Toll-Free in Oregon: 877-476-0583

Hearing Impaired: 711

Administrative Offices

Map of office locations ([/deq/Pages/Offices.aspx](https://deq/Pages/Offices.aspx))

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-5 p.m

Contact Form

(/deq/Pages/Contact.aspx) for questions not related to Vehicle inspection

Reception: 503-229-5696

Fax: 503-229-6124

Toll free in Oregon: 800-452-4011

Oregon TTY: 800-735-2900 or 711

Resources

Data Systems (/deq/Get-Involved/Pages/databases.aspx)

DEQ Programs (/deq/Pages/DEQ-Programs.aspx)

DEQ Projects (/deq/Programs/Pages/default.aspx)

Enforcement Actions (/deq/Pages/Enforcement-Actions.aspx)

Internal Management Directives (/deq/Get-Involved/Pages/imd.aspx)

Jobs (/jobs/pages/index.aspx)

Media contacts (/deq/about-us/Pages/Media-Contact.aspx)

News Releases (/deq/about-us/Pages/News-releases.aspx)

Pollution Complaints (/deq/Get-Involved/Pages/File-Pollution-Complaint.aspx)

Programs Contacts (/deq/about-us/Pages/Contacts.aspx)

Public Notices (/deq/Get-Involved/Pages/Public-Notices.aspx)

Public Records (/deq/about-us/Pages/Request-Public-Record.aspx)

Rulemaking at DEQ (/deq/rulemaking/Pages/default.aspx)

About Oregon

Oregon.gov (<https://www.oregon.gov>)

State Employee Search (<https://employeeearch.dasapp.oregon.gov>)

Agencies Listing (https://www.oregon.gov/pages/a_to_z_list)

Accessibility (<https://www.oregon.gov/pages/accessibility>)

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