

# SAFE DISPOSAL OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION IN EL PASO COUNTY



## BACKGROUND

Getting rid of old or unused meds using a safe disposal box or a take back event is the best way to ensure they won't be misused or stolen. Colorado has a program with more than 100 secure take back boxes at pharmacies and law enforcement agencies. Many pharmacy chains are committed to safe disposal as well, and have take back boxes conveniently placed inside the pharmacy. You also can go to National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, which takes place the last Saturday of April and October. Local police departments also sponsor take back days. Meds collected this way are securely disposed of, usually by incineration. Nearly 224,000 Coloradans misuse prescription medication every year. You can be part of the solution by taking stock of the unused medication in your home and utilizing safe disposal kiosks in your community.

## WHAT IS ACCEPTED

- Prescription medications, including prescribed controlled substances (DEA Schedule II- V)
- Over-the-counter medications
- Liquid medications (small amounts in original, non-leaking containers)
- Medicated patches (Used Fentanyl and Duragesic® patches are extremely hazardous. They may be folded in half, sticky-side together, and flushed down the toilet.)
- Medication samples
- Medicated ointments
- Vitamins
- Pet medications
- Unused drug injection cartridges, e.g. unused EpiPens® and insulin pens (must be unused with needle still protected inside)
- Unused inhaler canisters, e.g. Advair®, Spiriva®, ProAir® and Ventolin® (must be unused, no empty canisters or unneeded plastic holders/mouth pieces)

## LOCATIONS

### Fountain Police Department

222 N. Santa Fe Ave.  
Fountain, 80817  
M-F, 8-5. Closed holidays.

### Manitou Springs Police Department

606 Manitou Ave.  
Manitou Springs, 80829  
24/7. Open holidays.

### Monument Police Department

645 Beacon Lite Rd.  
Monument, 80132  
24/7. Open holidays.

### Walgreens

3480 N. Academy Boulevard  
Colorado Springs 80917  
Call 719-380-9438 for pharmacy hours.

### Walgreens

4470 Royal Pine Drive  
Colorado Springs 80920  
Call 719-445-4160 for pharmacy hours.

### Kaiser Permanente

4105 Briargate Pkwy Suite 125  
Colorado Springs, 80920  
M-F, 8:30-7:30. SA, 9-5 (except 1:30-2:30). Closed holidays.

### Penrose Hospital

2222 N Nevada Ave.  
Colorado Springs 80907  
M-F, 9-5. Closed holidays.

### St Francis Medical Center

6001 E. Woodmen Road  
Colorado Springs 80923  
M-F, 9-5. Closed holidays.