



What is a secure drug take-back program?

Drug take-back programs provide safe, convenient disposal options to keep drugs out of the wrong hands and out of our waterways.

THE PROBLEM

According to the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon has one of the highest rates of prescription opioid misuse in the nation. Prescription opioids cause more deaths than any other type of drug—including alcohol, methamphetamines, heroin and cocaine. Unused prescription drugs in Oregon homes pose significant public health and safety risks if not disposed of properly. These medications can lead to abuse and accidental poisonings. Additionally, flushing pharmaceuticals can pollute waterways and damage fragile aquatic ecosystems. People in Oregon who want to responsibly dispose of unused medications need more convenient options.

THE SOLUTION

Secure drug take-back programs provide a safe and convenient solution to prescription drug disposal and have significantly increased the amount of collected medication around the country. Using an Extended Producer Responsibility model, a drug take-back law would require drug manufacturers to provide drug take-back programs, similar to how Oregon works with manufacturers to deal with leftover paint and electronic waste.

California, New York and Washington passed statewide drug take-back programs in 2018.

HOW IT WORKS

Legislation proposed for the 2019 session would require drug manufacturers to **finance and coordinate** a convenient drug take-back program that:

- Provides drug collection kiosks at Oregon pharmacies.
- Educates consumers on the safe and secure storage of medications and the inherent risks of improper storage.
- Offers a mail back option for communities that have limited access to collection locations.
- Accepts prescription and over-the-counter medications.

450%

INCREASE

in the **number of deaths** from prescription drug overdoses in the last 10 years



3

OREGONIANS

die **every week** from prescription opioid overdoses



39,197

POUNDS

of medicines were collected in Washington's King County in 2017 through **105 secure drop boxes** and prepaid mailers



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State of Oregon
DEQ Department of Environmental Quality