

How we manage and dispose of prescription drugs is a growing concern in Arkansas and in our nation in terms of human and environmental costs.

- Four in ten teens who abused a prescription drug got it from a parent's medicine cabinet.*
- Prescription drugs are second only to marijuana in abuse by our youth.**
- Drug induced deaths in the U.S. are second only to motor vehicle fatalities.**
- Improperly disposed of drugs can and do harm our soil and water supplies.



**White River
Regional Solid Waste
Management District**

Prescription Drugs:

**Safety at Home
Safe Disposal**



White River Regional Solid Waste
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**A Guide to Prescription
Drug Safety**

**Community Drug
Disposal Programs**

*www.artakeback.org/disposal-myths-and-facts

**<http://www.whitehouse.gov/W/prescription-drug-abuse>



Prescription Drugs

are more than controlled substances. They are also household hazardous wastes due to their toxic nature and disposal concerns.

Why take old prescription and over-the-counter drugs to a take-back collection center?

Reduce the Abuse—Leaving unneeded or expired drugs around your house is an invitation for misuse. Most drug abusers—especially teens—get drugs from the home of a relative or acquaintance. Your prescription is for you and no one else!

Accidental Poisoning—Unneeded medicines left in our homes can be a danger to children, those with impaired vision and pets. Reduce the chance of misuse or accidental ingestion.



Improper Handling—Drugs placed in the trash may not always get to the intended destination. Prescription bottles can be easy to spot and pull, and broken trash bags may expose loose drugs to children or animals.

You Dump It, You Drink It—Never flush drugs into your sewer system without a pharmacist's approval. Water treatment plants are not designed to remove or process many of the compounds found in medicines.

Drugs dumped on the ground may be ingested by animals, will contaminate ground soil and water and may eventually enter our waterways as well.

Chemicals from landfilled drugs can show up in leachate (landfill liquids) that, even if processed through a water treatment plant, may pass through to our rivers and streams.



Tips for Safe Storage of All Drugs

Get Organized—Check your medications at least every six months. Properly dispose of expired medications, both prescription or over the counter.

Lock Them Up—Store them in a locked cabinet, drawer or other secure location out of sight and out of reach from curious eyes and hands!

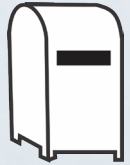
Be Safe—Keep each person's medications separate to avoid accidental misuse.



Safe Disposal of Sharps

Due to the risk of injury during handling, syringes, needles and lancets require special care in disposal, and are not accepted at drug-drop-off centers. Go to www.WhiteRiverRecycles.org/ household-hazardous-waste for disposal options.

24-Hour Drop-off Locations in North Central Arkansas:



Cleburne County

Cleburne County Sheriff's Office
Greer's Ferry Police Department

Fulton County

Fulton County Jail Complex (Oct. 2013)

Independence County

Independence County Sheriff's Office

Izard County

Izard County Sheriff's Office

Jackson County

Newport Police Department

Sharp County

Cave City Police Department
Sharp County Detention Center

Stone County

Stone County Sheriff's Office

Van Buren County

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office

White County

Bald Knob Police Department
Beebe Police Department
White County Sheriff's Office

Woodruff County

McCrary Police Department
Woodruff County Sheriff's Office

Drug drop-off is a free service. No identification or paperwork is required. Go to www.WhiteRiverRecycles.org for more information. For other Arkansas locations go to www.artakeback.org.