



# Free medication drop-off

Safe and secure medication disposal in Thurston County

## Dispose of your unwanted medication for free

Thurston County has several convenient medication drop-off locations. Disposal is free and simple. Just drop your pills in the drop-box and go.

All collection locations **except** Group Health take controlled substances like Oxycontin or Vicodin.

### Lacey Police Department

420 College Street SE  
Daily: 24 hours a day

### Rainier City Hall

102 Rochester Street W  
Monday - Thursday:  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Tenino Police Department

358 McClellan Street S  
Monday - Friday:  
7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.



### Thurston County Sheriff's Office

2000 Lakeridge Drive SW in Olympia  
Daily: 24 hours a day  
Drop-box is outside Building 3.

### Tumwater Police Department at City Hall

555 Israel Road  
Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Yelm Police Department

206 McKenzie Avenue SE  
Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Group Health Cooperative

700 Lilly Road in Olympia  
Monday – Friday: 9:15 a.m. – 5:45 p.m.  
Group Health does **not** accept any controlled substances.

Visit [www.TakeBackYourMeds.org](http://www.TakeBackYourMeds.org) to find locations in other counties, including Lewis, Mason, and Pierce.

This program is sponsored by Thurston County Public Health & Social Services, the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Thurston County Sheriff's Office, and local police departments.

# Safe and secure medication disposal

**Y**ou probably have some expired cold medicine, old vitamins, or a prescription that you no longer need lurking in your medicine cabinet. You're not alone - about 33 million containers of medication go unused in Washington State each year!

## Why do we need drug collection programs?

Storing unwanted medication in your home is a recipe for trouble. According to the Washington State Department of Health, accidental overdoses



and poisonings have surpassed car accidents as the leading cause of accidental deaths.

Prescription drugs are also the illicit drug of choice among 12 and 13 year olds.

We also know that flushing medicines down the toilet is bad for the environment. Even though treatment plants treat our wastewater, they are unable to filter out pharmaceutical compounds. Water containing these compounds is released into Puget Sound. Of 139 streams sampled in America, 80 percent tested positive for pharmaceutical drug contamination.

Trash disposal is not safe either. Like other hazardous materials, medicines in the landfill break down into harmful chemicals. The leachate (garbage water) containing these chemicals gets pumped to water treatment facilities and is released into Puget Sound.



## What is the answer?

Law enforcement agencies in 17 of Washington's 39 counties provide temporary drug take-back collection. With budgets getting tighter state-wide, many of these programs will not have the funding needed to continue.

State legislation has been proposed for several years to create a statewide medication take-back program.

Based on a product stewardship approach:

- Drug manufacturers would pay for disposal.
- Local businesses would volunteer as collection sites.
- Local government would help promote the program.

This plan would cost the drug industry an estimated one penny per \$16 of medicine sold. Drug manufacturers spend \$451 million each year promoting their products in Washington.

This legislation has not passed.



**"More than 70 percent of people who abuse prescription drugs get them from friends or family - often from the medicine cabinet."**

**- Gil Kerlikowske  
Director of the Office of  
National Drug Control**

## So what can you do?

- Use the drug drop-off boxes at the locations listed on the front of this flyer.
- Learn more about medication take-back programs and proposed legislation at [www.TakeBackYourMeds.org](http://www.TakeBackYourMeds.org).



Thurston County Solid Waste  
2404-A Heritage Ct. SW  
Olympia, WA 98502

